Table of Contents

1. A Note to New Readers
2. Alliances
3. Prologue
4. Chapter One: Riversong
5. Chapter Two: Blackheart
6. Chapter Three: Riversong
7. Chapter Four: Blackheart
8. Chapter Five Part One: Riversong
9. Chapter Five Part Two: Blackheart
10. Chapter Six: Riversong
11. Note to the readers!
12. Chapter Seven: Blackheart
13. Chapter Eight: Riversong
14. Chapter Nine: Blackheart
15. Chapter Ten: Riversong
16. Chapter Eleven: Blackheart
17. Chapter Twelve: Riversong
18. Chapter Thirteen: Blackheart
19. Chapter Fourteen: Riversong
20. Chapter Fifteen: Blackheart
21. Chapter Sixteen: Riversong
22. Chapter Seventeen: Blackheart
23. Chapter Eighteen: Riversong
24. Chapter Nineteen: Blackheart
25. Chapter Twenty: Riversong
26. Chapter Twenty-one: Blackheart
27. Chapter Twenty-two: Riversong
28. Chapter Twenty-Three: Blackheart
29. Chapter Twenty-Four: Riversong
30. Chapter Twenty-five: Blackheart
31. Chapter Twenty-Six: Riversong
32. Chapter Twenty-Seven: Blackheart
33. Chapter Twenty-Eight: Riversong
34. Chapter Twenty-Nine: Blackheart

35. Chapter Thirty: Riversong
36. Chapter Thirty-One: Blackheart
37. Chapter Thirty-Two: Riversong
38. Chapter Thirty-Three: Blackheart
39. Chapter Thirty-Four: Riversong
40. Chapter Thirty-Five: Blackheart
41. Chapter Thirty-Six: Riversong
42. Chapter Thirty-Seven: Blackheart
43. Chapter Thirty-Eight: Riversong
44. Chapter Thirty-Nine: Blackheart
45. Chapter Forty: Riversong
46. Chapter Forty-One: Blackheart
47. Chapter Forty-Two: Riversong
48. Chapter Forty-Three: Blackheart
49. Chapter Forty-Four: Blackheart
50. Chapter Forty-Five: Nettleblossom
51. Chapter Forty-Six: Riversong
52. Chapter Forty-Seven: Blackheart
53. Chapter Forty-Eight: Riversong
54. Chapter Forty-Nine: Riversong
55. Chapter Fifty: Riversong
56. Chapter Fifty-One: Blackheart
57. End

A Note to New Readers

Dear Readers,

First off, Thank you all so very much for clicking on this book, and then clicking the 'read more' option after reading the description over!

Now this note is here to give you a heads up though, and I apologize if this note scares you off from reading this fan fiction. (though honestly, it is just a fan fiction, so if you choose not to, whatever, its your loss)

I wrote this book starting way back in 2010, that was 8th grade for me. And I started notes for this book in 6th grade. So this is a VERY old story. I have improved quite a bit since I first started writing this, so as you read it, it does get better.

However, I have NO intentions of going back and editing this story. So it is full of spelling and grammar errors, as well as a few plots that don't run consistently throughout the story.

PLEASE DON'T EDIT THIS VIA COMMENTS

You have no idea how many times i have gotten comments on this with *"Its Medicine, not Medician"* which I know by now! Like I said I started this ages ago and don't plan to edit. So you commenting with that will not convince me to do so.

Again, I apologize if this post scares you away from the story.

But despite all of what I have said, this story has somehow managed to gain over 100,000 reads, which is a lot for a fan fiction!

I've been told that the descriptive text in this story is great, and I have gotten a fan fiction based on this fan fiction.

So who knows, maybe you'll still like it ;)

Thank you again for taking your time to read at least this far into the story~

If you choose to continue I truly hope you enjoy the plot and adventures that I have managed to create over the past 4+ years. I really have gotten attached to my fan characters as over the years, and I hope you are able to feel the love as well. Through the love, joy, pain and loss, that they go through on their adventures.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Y. Rauch

July 28, 2014

Alliances

THUNDERCLAN

Leader:

Amberstar
- pale orange she cat with darker orange paws and tail tip, and amber eyes.

Deputy:

Tigerfang
-White tom with black stripes and green eyes

Medicine cat:

Riversong
- light silvery grey she cat with darker grey spots leading down her back, and one light blue, one light green eye

Warriors:

Blackheart
- black she cat with light blue eyes and a scar leading from her forhead to her tail tip, it is crossed by another scar that goes across her shoulder blades.

Leafstorm
- tan tabby tom with amber eyes

Flashpelt
- black shecat with yellow stripes and blue eyes

Whitespot
- silveryblue shecat with white spots and blue eyes

Apprentices:

Goldenpaw
- golden she cat with a white tail tip, and amber eyes

Leopardpaw
- dark orange tom with brown spots and white paws, has blue eyes

Queens:

Echostream
- black she-cat with flecks of white on her chest and paws, she has blue eyes

Littletail
- orange bob tail she-cat with white muzzle and green eyes

Kits:

Speckledkit
- white she-cat with flecks of black on her chest and tail, she has blue eyes

Darkkit
- black tom with flecks of white on tail and a white spot over his left eye, he has amber eyes

Flamekit
- reddish orange tom with a black tail and paws, he has amber eyes

Redkit
- orange bobtail tom with red-orange stripes and his front right paw is white, he has green eyes

Elders:

Greyfoot
- black she cat with grey paws and amber eyes

WINDCLAN

Leader:

Whitestar

- light gray tom with a white mussel and paws, black stripes on his tail, and has navy blue eyes

Deputy:

Silverpool
- light grey she cat with blue grey paw, and blue eyes

Medicen cat:

Echowhisper
- calico she cat with blue eyes

Warriors:

Icetail
- blue-grey tom with green eyes and white paws

Bramblefur
- brown tom with black spots and amber eyes

Silversong
-Black she-cat with a silvery grey chest and paws, she has amber eyes

Apprentices:

Flamepaw
- white she-cat with orange paws and ear tips, she has amber eyes

Sootpaw
- dark grey tom with a black tail and green eyes

Foxpaw
- orange she-cat with a brown stripe going down her back, and blue eyes

Queens:

Fireclaw
- orange tabby she-cat with black stripes and amber eyes

Kits:

Tinykit
- pale orange tabby she-cat with amber eyes

Elders:

Thistlefoot
- grey tom with white feet that have long fur that sticks out, he has blue eyes

RIVERCLAN

Leader:

Bramblestar
-brown tom with black spots

Deputy:

Medicine cat:

Feathersplash
- white she-cat with silvery grey stripes and blue eyes

Warriors:

Snowfire
- white with a black star on her forehead.

Snareclaw
-Is black with light brown spots

Apprentices:

Bluepaw
-russian blue tom with blue eyes

Dewpaw
-silver with a white muzzle

Kits:

Dewkit
- black also with a star on her forehead.

Leafkit
- black tom with a white fawn spots on his back

SHADOWCLAN

Leader:

Faintstar
- orange tabby tom with a white chest and amber eyes

Deputy:

Brighteye
-Tortoiseshell she-cat with green eyes

Medicine cat:

Darkwisker
-dark orange she-cat with a black mask around her amber eyes

Warriors:

Firestorm
- black she-cat with blue-grey paws, tail tip, and ear tips, she has yellow eyes

Yellowclaw
-pale orange tom with grey paws and yellow eyes

Apprentices:

Tawnypaw
-Calico she-cat with amber eyes

Queens:

Liontail
- golden brown she-cat with a white tail tip and amber eyes

Kits:

Bloodkit
- tan tom with blood-red stripes and amber eyes

Specklekit
- tan she-cat with blood-red specks on her face and tail, she has amber eyes

Prologue

Setting her paws one by one, a black she-cat slid silently through the undergrowth. She was barely visible against the night, her pure coat perfect for blending into the shadows of her surroundings as only her vibrant blue eyes reflected the pale moon's light.

She paused, her ears twitching as she sensed the movement of prey above her. Looking up she saw it, a blue-bird sat in the tree just above her on its lowest branch, completely unaware of her presence as it lingered there. The she-cat adjusted her footing as she prepared herself for the kill, her weight distributed to her rear paws as she leaned back putting as much weight as she could manage into the leap.

Before her paws could hit the branch, her teeth met the birds neck. Quickly and swiftly she made her kill, her land just barely shaking the leaves of the branch that she now stood on, its bark swaying beneath her as it gradually settled to bear its new guests presence.

The black cat's nose twitched as the scent of another cat reached her, quickly she climbed further into the tree in an attempt to blend in and hide her own scent as the stranger approached.

It wasn't long before she could see him, his pale grey pelt stood out easily against the night's dark surroundings. With his scent now even stronger the black-she cat knew he did not belong in this territory though the proud stride that he walked with seemed as though he felt otherwise.

The black she-cats eyes narrowed as more and more shapes appeared behind the grey tom, she could tell that this was not a peaceful party looking for only a meeting. She watched as the tom turned and motioned for the group behind him to follow as he began to lead them straight for the she-cats camp.

Quickly, the black cat climbed the tree rushing to its tallest branch before she let out a high pitch yowl in an effort to warn her clan. Wind suddenly rushed behind her blowing the tree and shaking all of its branches, her claws grasped at the branch beneath her in an effort to remain steady as she knew that her position had been given away and that she would soon be overwhelmed. But soon she hoped, that her clan-mates would come to her rescue and catch the enemy patrol in their path before they could reach her camp.

"Blackheart, I had hoped I would run into you soon- though this seems a bit sooner then expected." a deep voice of a cat suddenly behind her purred, with the dark tone of a threat lacing his words.

The black she-cat turned to face him, her lighter blue eyes meeting his deep blue ones as she did. He flash of fear coursed through her as she could see a dark shadow behind the pale tom's gaze. "Don't worry." He murmured, as he took a step forward, "I do not intend to take your life."

"Whitestar!" Blackheart hissed as she took a step back, though she was now standing on the end of her branch and the wind still continued to try to shake her from it, "Why do you dare bring a patrol this far into Thunderclan's territory, as a leader you should know better then to do this."

"Oh, you will find out soon enough." He laughed menacingly as he made a motion in flicking his tail. Blackheart looked at the branches below her and she could now see them filled with the members of his patrol, it would be impossible for her to simply flee from the fight.

"However..." The tom paused as he stepped forward again, now not even a paws length away from the black she-cats face. She could smell the stench of his breath has she returned her gaze to meet his. "I obviously couldn't attack your clan tonight after the little show you've just put on here." A sickening grin grew on his face as he stepped closer still, forcing her to try to step back as well, her paw being left to grasp at open air.

"So I guess we're just going to have to settle for some smaller revenge..." And with those words he took another step forward, and

with this step Blackheart fumbled on the branch trying to maintain her grip but failing as both her rear legs flailed momentarily in the air before her for-paws grasp slipped, sending her falling through the air.

Her eyes closed tight as she waited for impact before the sickening thud of her body hitting the cold forest floor sent her into a pitch black space where could feel and hear nothing.

Bird song echoed around the she-cats ears as darkness still surrounded her, hunger clawed at her belly and she could feel pain surging up her spine. She could feel her whole body covered in scratches, the thick warm feeling of blood stuck to her fur as she laid on the ground, her legs spread about her in a strange fashion.

She took a deep breath, as her eyes slowly flickered opened. Her vision was blurred as she tried to focus on the ground before her but failed.

Blood dripped down Blackhearts face and onto the tip of her nose, only making the coppery stench of it even stronger, she shook her head in an attempt to rid herself of it which she quickly regretted as it sent the world about her spinning and caused pain to shoot through her whole body. She closed her eyes and dropped her head back to the ground, a sickening splash sending more blood onto her face as she realized she was laying in a small pool of her own blood mixed with rain water.

She realized she could feel drops of rain settling on her pelt and seeping into her many scratches. Opening her eyes again she slowly let them try to focus again though the grey clouded sky still seemed too bright for her and she was forced to squint.

Looking herself over slowly she felt dread creep into her mind as she realized that both of her rear legs had been broken, though her fore-legs were scratched and wounded but not as far gone.

She lifted her head again in an effort this time to call for help, hoping that one of her clan's patrols may be near enough to hear her, but she was shaken as no sound came from her, not even a soft whisper. She could feel a dryness in her throat and a dull throb of pain as she tried again to call for help, still no sound came.

Eventually she stopped even trying as the pain in her throat

became too much to bare, nausea began to mix with her hunger as she realized her voice may be gone for good. She rested her head on her fore-paws and closed her eyes for a moment, hoping that a member of her clan would come to find her soon.

An image flashed into her mind, one of her still laying beneath that tree, only of her dead, wounds flowing with maggots and her flesh aged and rotting.

Her eyes flew open, and she swallowed as she felt her nausea only growing worse. She could not just lay here any longer and wait to be found. She had to make it home to her clan and family, even if it meant dragging her self the entire way.

So she began to pull herself forward, cringing in pain but still forcing herself to go on.

Chapter One: Riversong

"There you go." I purred as I finished rapping an apprentices wounded paw in cobweb.

She had been slightly injured from a border fight the other day, Windclan had come to far into Thunderclan territory and there were far to many of them to be a simple accident.

The battle had been a pretty bad one and not one cat escaped without a wound, though the worst one so far hadn't been very bad. But Blackheart was missing, it had been her who sounded the alarm and prepared us for battle, but she was the only one not yet accounted for.

I could feel my fear showing in my oddly colored eyes, one light blue, the other light green. She was my sister and I didn't know what I would do without her at my side. She may have even been killed before we got to the border!

Just as I was about to go into panic mode I herd a commotion in the camp clearing, and as I leaped out of my den to see what it was, I almost wished I had not seen it, Blackheart was pulling her self through the bramble entrance with two warriors now helping her, one on each side.

Her eyes caught mine for only a second before she let herself drop to the ground, blood was spilling rapidly from a huge wound on her back, but I needed a better look so I told the warriors to get her to my den right at that moment.

The den was filled with the reek of spilled blood once we got Blackheart in there.

I had left the warriors to get my herbs ready to use on her, but first I needed to stop the bleeding.

Both warriors left after I got the blood to stop and what was stuck

to her fur rinsed out with water.

But now that I could see her wounds more clearly I feared that she might die before I could do a thing, the journey back to camp would have used so much of her energy and she might not even want to live after all this...

After I treated her wounds I knew they would scar, but it was the shape that they were in that was weird.

There was two marks, one was thin and long and it led straight from her tail tip to her forehead, another wound crossed it at her shoulders it to was a slim strait line. I didn't know why but the mark disturbed me.

"Will she make it?" someone asked me from my dens entrance.

"I'm sorry Tigerfang, but I don't know. She has so many wounds and she's lost so much blood. I'm just not sure if it was too much for her body to handle..."

"At least you're trying to save her Riversong, she will go to Starclan when she is ready to go."

Tigerfang was right, if Starclan took Blackheart she would be going of her own choice and by Starclan's plan for her. It was not my job, even as medicine cat to change that, I was only to do my best at healing.

It was just after moon high when Blackheart's eyes opened. She didn't say anything she just sat and watched. But every now and again she would open her mouth and try to say something only to close it again without a sound.

I couldn't imagine what could be racing through her head, I had so many questions to ask like 'who in Windclan did this to you?' or 'what can you remember?' none the less I held the dens silence without a single noise.

A small idea popped into my mind as I sorted some herbs, I would have to find a way for her to communicate with us, for the clans sake as much as my own. And though she was still far from fully

healed I knew I would need to start training her soon. For now at least she could still hear me,

"Don't worry sister, I will find a way for you to speak, even if it takes moons to do so!"

Later that night, I met a Starclan warrior in a dream. The warrior said the claw marks on Blackhearts back were a sign normally given to a warrior who lost their voice in battle. The dream only lasted a few seconds before I awoke.

The wounds Blackheart had were beginning to turn to fresh scars on her once beautiful black pelt. They were highly noticeable and seamed to reflect light as well as any cats eye would with moonlight.

Also a new scar was placed on Blackhearts chest, I hadn't a clue how it got there but there it was, it was a lightning mark, as though it was Thunderclan's symbol.

That was it! The way to speak with Blackheart, through symbol talk! Though first I would need to find a language, but at least she would easily talk again without the need for voice.

Chapter Two: Blackheart

It had been three sunrises since we had been attacked by Windclan, two since I'd found my way back to camp. And I was lying in a nest that had been built around me, every few hours my sister would come in and check up on me, but other then that I nearly never saw anyone. I mean I would try to leave to see someone but my hind legs were broken and my wounds still not even close to healing, it feels like I'll be here in this den till I join Starclan.

Finally, I could scent a new visitor coming through the lichen entrance to the medicine den.

" Is she awake?" The voice said

"Yes, but, she still cannot speak. I believe that her voice has somehow been removed."

"Will she ever speak again?"

"I'm working on a way for her to communicate though it will not be through sound."

huh? Me talking again?!? Even if it wasn't vocal I still needed to tell the clan what I knew of Windclan's plan!

"I see but may I still see how well she is healing?" though I couldn't yet see them it was clear the voice was my mate Tigerfang

"Yes you may but please don't touch her I'm not yet sure if she can feel the pain inside her.."

"Blackheart?" he said putting his through the lichen then slowly walking to me, my heart was pounding, it was the first time I'd seen him since the day we'd been attacked,

I'm fine! I wish I could only speak to you but I know that you cannot hear me.

"What happened to you..." he said when he saw my wounds, not even I could see them all for if I turned my head it hurt and might open a wound back up

It was Whitestar!!!! He said he would torture me and it would be worse then death but I don't see how this is like that.

"if I find who did this I'll do to them worse then what they did to you!"

if only you could hear me!

"Riversong told me she would find a way for you to talk... I hope she does even if it's not vocal I just want to know what you are thinking..."

That's all I want too...

he started to walk away,

Wait!!

I opened my mouth and tried to yowl, but because his back was turned he couldn't see what I'd tried to say.

~The sky was pitch black, there was no moon, no stars, and no scent of prey.

The only sound was fighting cats, but one sound was close, far to close for comfort.

I span around to face it, all I can see is it's tail, long silver-blue fur with a white tip. All I can do was stand there watching the tail flick back and forth as the animal watched me, I was frozen with fear.

It stepped out of it's cover

'A fox!' It's face was a red-orange color though the rest of it was the silver-blue, it's eyes, one yellow, one blue.

'What's wrong with it...'

"There is nothing wrong with me! I come to help you and that's all you ask!"

I felt startled 'You can hear me?'

"I understand all languages."

"How will you help me?"

"I do not know yet, though I do know that only you can see and hear, unless I enter someone else's dreams or I visit Starclans hunting grounds."

'Where am I?' I asked as I looked again at my surroundings again

"the dark forest, where all evil clan cats go."

'What?! Why am I here?!'

"Because I need to show you something that is here"

'I still don't understand.'

"the one who took your voice, it was not Whitestar."

'What?'

"let me show you who did it. Come.":

Suddenly it was cold, freezing cold! I opened my eyes only to close them again to shield them from the brightness of the sun. I had been so close to seeing who had really been there and had removed my voice, but I had woken up due to the cold weather. It felt mouse-brained to not be able to sleep through the cold, I'd done it many times before! If I could of I would have sighed at the thought of how weak my body was becoming. what if the fox thinks I just left him! If he did what would he do would he abandon me and just let me live without knowing who did this to me?!

"I don't think that."

'where are you?'

"I'm in front of you. Open your eyes the light won't harm you." *I squinted my eyes open only to find I was no longer in the medicine den but I was in the camp clearing, what more was I was standing!*

'How did we get here? Why are they all not looking at me when I'm standing yet my legs are broken!'

"You are spirit walking. I need you to help someone but you cannot do it in the waking world for two reasons, one, you must heal, two, they must think you are a starclan cat."

'what?! Why?!'

"Just do as I say. I'm only starclans messenger."

Chapter Three: Riversong

~"The apprentices name is Foxpaw, you must help her, she is going through hard times for her father is very ill and she has nearly lost the will to live."

'And what am I to do? This apprentice, she's not from Thunderclan is she?'

"No she is not, she does not know you in the waking world, she must think you are a Starclan warrior. You must tell her your story, how your life is hard and how it all happened, and do not tell her any names!"~

I woke with a start was this a message from Starclan? Or was it but a dream? I looked at Blackheart who was sleeping soundly. But why couldn't I see them and why were they not talking directly to me?

I needed to speak with them! Luckily tonight is half-moon but, who would take care of Blackheart? She seemed well enough to not need treatment for the night but... I just couldn't abandon her. I could tell her... It's not like she can't hear right?still I would have to leave soon and I didn't want to wake her... I looked at her again this time her eyes were open, I could tell her now,

"Blackheart, I need to go to mother-mouth to night, it's half moon." she nodded and mouthed something that I wish I could of herd but I still got the message.

—

"Riversong." greeted Echowhisper as she bowed her head " I hope your clan is doing well."

I looked kindly at the Windclan medicine-cat and replied "Very well, though one of our young warriors is well..."

"What?"

"She seems to be missing her voice, not that she is unable to battle

or Anything, and she seems to be healing quickly it's just she's completely unable to speak."

"I see, I'm afraid I don't know any cure for that but I hope she does one day get her voice back."

"As does her clan."

"Greetings!" Yowled the elderly Riverclan medicine-cat as he made his way toward the four trees were we waited,

" Greetings Feathersplash, how is Riverclan?" I yowled back to him

"Very well! The fish do seem to be getting more mouse brained as time goes on, soon we might as well say 'fish brained'" Echowhisper and I exchanged a glance before Echowhisper said to him

"Where is your apprentice?"

"He will be along soon! He just needed to pick some herbs before he comes."

"Oh! There he is now!" I said as I saw the silvery-blue tom running toward us.

"Sorry I'm late again!!" he yowled.

"It's fine I replied as he stopped and sat beside he's mentor.

"we still need to wait for Shadowclan..."

"if Darkwisker does not come soon we will have to leave without her."

We waited for what seemed like moons, when Echowhisper said " we are wasting moonlight, if she comes she must walk alone and meet us there, if we come with moments to spar we can wait but first we need to get there." we all nodded in agreement and began the walk to high-stones.

We were nearly to the barn at the edge of Windclan territory when Darkwisker finally caught up to us

"What took you so long?" I asked her

"Not good news," she panted I saw a slight flicker of movement be hind her. I focused in on it and saw it was Feintscar, there was only one reason the Shadowclan deputy was with his medicine cat.

"I'm so sorry..." I said "Ravenstar was a grand leader."

"He was...."

Was that a hint of fear in the Shadowclan cats eyes when he said that? "we must go in now." I said turning to the entrance to mother mouth, soon I hoped, I would have the answers to my strange dreams and to who removed Blackhearts voice."

The cold ground felt wet under my paws, though it felt comforting knowing that I was so close to Starclan.

The darkness was overwhelming. I could hardly see past my own whiskers when then, I could see two eyes peering at me from somewhere in the distance, the eyes were golden and seemed to be getting closer to me. Until I could see who it was, her starry pelt was blue-gray and she had one orange spot over her right eye, her left paw was as well.

"Welcome Riversong, we have been awaiting your visit."

"I have been waiting to meet you as well, you know my name yet, I do not know yours, what is it?"

"My name is, Splashstar, I was leader of Windclan long ago.."

"Why do you speak to me then? Why not Echowisper?"

"Windclan needs help, Echowhisper has some how become out of range with Starclan, we believe it has to do with the dark forest they are becoming stronger the longer they exist now they have learned to take over body's that allow them in. 'Only the darkness of thunder and with the swiftness of the river can save the howling wind'..."

She then began to fade away as the darkness surrounded me once

more and I could feel the cold ground beneath my paws.

Chapter Four: Blackheart

~Wind whisked around me, it felt weird to be walking once again, though I knew this was but a dream. All I had to do was find the apprentice and help her, though i still had no clue how or what clan she would be in. And still, I was mad that the fox had not shown me the one who had stolen my voice.
As I wandered blindly around the fields a scent hit the roof of my mouth, rabbit, but with it came the scent of Windclan! 'W indclan?! Fox- this had better not be Foxpaw.'

"But Blackheart, it is not all of Windclan who harmed you, it was just Whitestar and his gang of true followers." *The voice came from the back of my mind as if it were not even there*

'You better be right...'

Now the apprentice was running towards me the rabbit just out of her reach, my hiding place was no longer of use now for for she would scent me.

'Foxpaw.' I said as she nearly passed me. 'Foxpaw!' I said a little louder, this made him turn and look.

" W-who are you? Why are you in my dream?"

'I am Blackheart- a Starclan warrior, and I have come to speak with you,'

"Why me? Why not Echowhisper? She is the medicine -cat, I-I'm not even a warrior yet."

'Because, it is you who needs my help, not Echowhisper. And you must never tell anyone of these meetings.'

" Wait so this is not the only time we will meet? There will be more meetings?!"

'Yes, as long as you need help I will meet with you.'

" Okay... But- just this last question- why doesn't your mouth move when you speak?"

This question made me flinch, I would never speak again, not with my true voice anyway.

'Long ago, my voice was stolen from me. I looked at my paws as I spoke just before I died, an enemy clans leader attacked our camp, I was out hunting when I saw them in our territory, and, when I sounded the alarm...'

I felt as though I wished I really had died that night, Whitestar would pay for this.

"please continue!" Foxpaw said excitedly as though he didn't see my pain.

'Okay... Well th-they caught me and, well I don't know what they did but when I woke up in the medicine den my legs were broken and my voice was gone...'

"wow.. I didn't know that a clan leader would do that... Heck not any clan cat that I know! Especially not my father, he's the best warrior in our clan! And he would never be like that!"

'Who is your father?'

"Well, he's our clan leader of coarse! You should know that since your in Starclan right?"

I had to stop my self from snarling at that, this was the son of my enemy! The one who caused all this suffering! My anger slid out more then I'd hoped, and the Windclan cat noticed.

"Are you okay?! You look like your in pain, can Starclan cats feel pain? Should I do something?!"

At least he hadn't realized it was anger- not pain that I felt, but I used this to my advantage.

'yes we do feel pain, I- I'm sorry' I sunk my claws into the earth and squeezed my eyes tightly as to not show that I was not truly in pain 'my

chest- It just- it does this when-'

I had to stop mid-sentence as true pain hit me, for real this time, I would have yowled had I a voice.

" do you need help?!! Are any other starclan cats around?!"

'NO!' I grunted quickly in my mind 'I must go now but I will come again tomorrow, promise!'

I wobbled to my feet and tried to run away from him, it was my spine that was hurting, as if Whitestar was clawing it again.

Images flashed through my head like a flashback.

Navy-blue eyes stared me in the face, I was being held down and many other cats surrounded me, my body was convulsing repeatedly. They spun me over on to my stomach, exposing my back to the cat with navy-blue eyes. Claws scraped my spine yowls of pain escaped my mouth. What was happening?! Why couldn't I move! I was rolled back onto my back, causing dirt to get into my new wounds, the cat pinning me down was Whitestar, but a dark shadow was in his eyes as he looked down at me, it was like a different cat was using him as a puppet, now, he had weakened me to let this- this thing do the rest of the work, using his body...

Chapter Five Part One: Riversong

"Blackheart?!" I yowled dashing to her side, as a pool of blood began to surround her body.

"Blackheart! Blackheart!" I repeated, my paws now covered in blood, her spine wound had re-opened. But how? It was completely healed. That didn't matter now, I just had to stop the bleeding before she bled to death.

she stopped and stayed still for a moment, and in that moment she mouthed something that i couldn't tell what it was. the moment was gone as quickly as it had come, now she was once again trembling and yowling her silent cries for help.

Fortunately the bleeding had stopped shortly after it had begun but still all I could do was watch her lye there, trembling, and most likely having nightmares of what had happened to her of which she couldn't tell any of us of.

Not yet anyway for I have been working on her language for her, only her and I will speak it or understand it but soon, she will once again tell us of what had happened to her that fateful night.

Chapter Five Part Two: Blackheart

When my dream ended I could hardly believe it, it was like re-living my attack. But for some reason, though I was awake my back still felt as though it was being clawed open again.
As I aloud my eyes to flicker open I saw that once again I was lying in the medicine den, for this I was truly thankful.

"Blackheart?!" I heard Riversong ask urgently,

'I'm fine...' I muttered in my head, forgetting for a moment that she could not hear me.

"You were convulsing in your sleep and re-opened your wound. But before that, I found a way for you to speak to me."

'What?! Tell me now so i can tell you what I've seen!!'

She turned to her den, in the split rock and pulled out two things laying them in front of me.
One was a thin grey stone slab, that was smooth and had rounded edges but with a flat top, the other item was a leaf that had some mud mixed with some sort of berries that turned it to a dark blueish-purple mixture.
Turning back to her den she pulled out yet another stone slab this one had many different markings on it.

"This is a written language that Starclan has given me for you to use, it is from the first clans, it is how we know of Tigerclan and Lionclan, though the last traces of it have been erased from our world Starclan still has it memorized. And I am going to teach it to you."

As I stared at the markings I saw that each one seamed to be different, there was about 35 of the characters. Turning my gaze to

my sister I said to her in my head

'Teach me, before my memories fail, before I loose my life to these dreams that I have. Teach me, so I can speak to you again.'

as if Riversong under stood me she pointed to the first letter and said
"This is for the sound 'ahh'"

Then her claw just hovering above the second one she said

"And this is 'iee'"

Finally, my learning had begun!

Chapter Six: Riversong

The feeling of the new-leaf breeze gently rippled through my fur as i stepped out of the Thunderclan camp. Soon it would be green-leaf and the prey, as well as herbs, would be in full stock.

Blackhearts training was going along well and for the past five days she had been trying her best, soon she would be able to speak in complete detail, just as she had with her voice.

Tonight was full moon and, I had begun to wonder of what Amberstar would say to the other clans of the attack, after all Windclan had done wrong in what the did to Blackheart, and the warrior who had done this would pay dearly for it.

"Riversong." said a voice behind me

"Yes, Amberstar?" I asked as I turned around dipping my head in reply

"Has Blackheart learned to speak fully yet?"

"Not just yet but she should be able to by tomorrow."

"Good." then she turned and began to head for the bramble tunnel but before she could call to those who were coming to the gathering I said

"Amberstar! Just one more thing, what are we to say of the Windclan attack and Blackheart?"

"Nothing other then that one of our warriors is wounded but is healing quickly and that we are just as strong as ever." after saying this she turned again and called the others.

But she was right if the other clans new of our weakness we could be attacked.

Amberstar's fur glistened silver in the moonlight as we sprinted

through the forest, Tigerfang loyally keeping step at her side, it was just like any other gathering so far.

I lifted my head to feel the cool green-leaf breeze, had Blackheart been here this would be a usual gathering for me, but now with out her comforting presents I felt alone in my clan, for I had no other family with me- our mother had died in a battle with rouges when they attacked our camp many moons ago, and our father had left our clan to become a Windclan cat to be with his new mate and his other son and daughter.

I had never been angry with him for his choice, but what troubled me what how he now never would even glance at either of us at a gathering, as if to ensure his loyalty to them.

Before I knew it we were at the edge of four-trees, Riverclan and Shadowclan were already there but Windclan was yet to come.

As my clan mingled with the other clans i wandered to where the other medicine cats were sitting. They all dipped their heads in greeting.

"So..." I said " where do you think Windclan could be?"

Fear shot through Darkwiskers gaze but she quickly hid it "I don't know," she said with a shrug " maybe they aren't coming

"Maybe" I muttered, after all it seamed obvious that they had stopped believing Starclan.

just then I herd a Riverclan warrior growl "*Finally*, here comes Snailclan" I lifted my head and breathed in their scent; it was true they were finally coming. But it seamed their scent was subtle as though they were trying to hide it.

Then it hit me, if they didn't believe Starclan, then they didn't follow the truce.

Windclan was about to attack!

"ITS A RAID!" I called loudly.

No cat moved except for Shadowclans new leader. He leaped from sky-rock and slipped through the crowd of clan cats and stopped right in front of me.

He snarled in a low voice "Yes, it is, and you will be the first to die!"

"Feintstar! How could you? It is full-moon, the truce, Starclan will not allow this!"

"Oh.. But they cannot stop us, they are nothing but DEAD cats! They cant do anything about it!"

All I could do was stare in shock, the fear that I had seen in Darkwisker's eyes! He had know of this!

When I come to my senses I glared defiantly at him and snarled loudly so that all could hear,

"I'll kill you nine times before you can kill a single warrior of any clan!"

He then lifted his head to the sky and before I knew what he was doing, he let out a battle cry. Causing a chorus of battle ready cats to fill the clearing.

Note to the readers!

Hey peoples!!

Recently I met this really nice person over Wattpad and she had a great idea!! She suggested that we intertwine our books because her book is also going through some things that are similar to mine! So I thought 'why not that's a good idea!' so in the next chapter considering that so far Riverclan and Thunderclan are Allies and her book is based in Riverclan I will begin to post ideas that her and iIagree on! Her book is called Snowfire and her user-name is WolfAngelGirl you should check out her book!!

well ill be posting the next chapter up once we have our ideas set and stone :) bye for now!!!

~JenniferRauch

Chapter Seven: Blackheart

My eyes had just closed as the fox appeared before me, I was standing in a clearing at four-trees, cats battling all around me, cats- from my clan! Cats I knew!

'Fox!! Whats going on?! Its full moon why are these cats battling?!'

She looked at me with a sad glance and whispered "This is what is happening now, Shadowclan has joined Windclan in their lack of faith. You must warn the clan and bring more to help." she closed her eyes and whispered to herself- "With these powers of dark, let me heal for the lights gain."

'Wait! Powers of dark? What are you doing?!' I gasped, for I did not wish to be a part of the dark forest.

"You need not worry young one, you have not done anything wrong. I am but the guardian of the dark forest, and I have healed your legs so you can save the living forests of these darkness's that pass. 'Only the darkness of thunder and with the swiftness of the river can save the howling wind'"

'please tell me what you mean! I am no medicine cat I don't understand!'

"I cannot tell but you may be helped by others, for now you must go, or you will feel the pain of great loss..." she then turned and sulked into the fighting cats with nothing more then a flick of her silver blue tail, she faded into a mist leaving me gasping for air in the medicine den.

I gave a wobbly start as I used my legs that had been healed by the fox, and the first thing that crossed my mind was 'how am I to do this?!? After all who will understand me?'

As if to hear my question, a warrior walked into the den, to check on me.

"Blackheart?!" she gasped

But I had no time for her amazement to linger on me, I had to lead a battle party to the four-trees!

I ran out of the den with fear in my eyes to show her that it was urgent, and I rushed in to the warriors den, I had to wake them all up!

"What are you doing" the warrior that had seen me gasped

'We haven't got time Flashpelt! We have to get them all up!' I mouthed the hiss at her. The black she cat nodded and seemed to understand as she roused the other warriors.

Once all the warriors and apprentices were up I dashed to the bramble tunnel and tried to explain what was going on by mouthing words.

We had to stop this battle before fox's prophesied words came true!

_____

It felt like moons before I had many of the warriors following me through the forest. But now they didn't need me to guide them for the shrieks of battle were now easy to hear.

There was only one cat I was listening for though- Riversong. If she died i would be out of kin in my clan, not only that but no one would understand me again.

I felt a pelt brush against mine as I ran, but when i looked there was nothing but a glimmer of blue.

'Fox? Are you here to battle with me?' I asked

"Yes, and it is time you knew my true name..."

'You have a name?'

"I too was once a warrior, but I left the clans and now my spirit lives as many forms, I am Splashstar- once of Windclan- once of

Skyclan, -and once of Bloodclan, I have live many lives and have held many shapes, but for now I am the guardian of darkness and, your spirits guide. Fight for your clan, fight for the forests of light. You will win this battle, and many will follow it."

With that Splashstar's pelt vanished but now I could feel her strength within me.

The trees now lurched before me, their leaves silhouetted buy the blood red sunrise light, as if it were a sing from Starclan that there would be loss.

But for who, it didn't say.

As I stood once again at the lead of a patrol I knew what I needed to do, then just as id seen Amberstar do many times, I flicked my tail, sending my cats into the clearing, though sadly without a battle cry.

Wind surged through my fur followed by the electricity of power, this was my battle! And I would win it!

Claws raked through my pelt as I battled a Windclan warrior, anger filled his yellow eyes. He aimed a swipe at my muzzle but before he could I leaped into the air, landing on his back. He squirmed underneath me trying to escape, I knew this warrior from other gatherings we had been what you might call friends, but now in the mist of battle this warrior was my enemy and he would pay for his wrong doings!

I let my hind claws scrape his back until he begged for mercy, and knew he was beat. As I watched him flee to the under brush I knew that Splashstar was right.

Claws ripped through my back fur as an Windclan cat tried to fight me, something of his scent was familiar, no matter I had to defend myself. But as I turned I saw and wished I hadn't, Foxpaw, who's surprise lingered in his eyes as will as mine, now he knew that I was no Starclan cat.

Chapter Eight: Riversong

I could hardly bare the sounds of battle that rose around me. The moon had long since passed and now the sun turned the clearing blood-red as the light bounced off the blood covered high rock. Lucky for me one of the Riverclan warriors had stopped the Shadowclan leader from attacking me, giving me the time to slip away with the other medicine cats.

fear and anger filled the Shadowclan cats eyes as she whispered "Starclan... Why did you grant this demon nine lives. Now we will be doomed to his harm for nine life spans."

I knew that I need not scold her for not telling us, she was to do that himself.

Looking into the clearing once more I was amazed to see more Thunderclan warriors appearing, it was as if Starclan had sent them. But after a few long moments of watching, I saw in the middle of the clearing Blackheart! She and a Windclan cat were starring at each other, not in anger but, in surprise. It looked as though they knew each other but did not. I had to get to them before another cat saw.

Too late...

"Foxpaw!" a warrior gasped as he made his way to the two cats, his astonishment turned to anger as he saw what was truly happening "You!" he snarled at Blackheart "What have you done to my apprentice?!" all Blackheart could do was stand there, for she could not respond to his threat.

"Shes done nothing!" the apprentice told his mentor "We just met at a gathering once, - sh-she cant speak!"

"Really?" the tom snarled as he pounce on Blackheart "speak you worthless liar! Filling his head with stupid lies! If she cant bring herself to kill you then I will!" he then tried to give a death bite on

her neck.

I couldn't watch, my last glance at my sister had been of her eyes filled with fear as she saw no way out of his grip.
A few moments past and the clearing felt utterly quiet, I opened my eyes and only saw a few cats left in the clearing mainly Riverclan and Thunderclan, the only other cat of a different clan was Foxpaw, who sat next to Blackheart.

Even Darkwisker had left with her clan. As I walked up to Blackheart and Foxpaw I listened in on what the apprentice was saying to my sister.

"Why did you lie to me? I might have listened to you anyway if you hadn't told me you were Starclan!"

In reply all Blackheart did was shake her head. I decided that was the time I would enter their conversation.

"Hello- Foxpaw is it? I saw how you saved my sister from your own mentor, and I am grateful for that."

"you don't need to be, Blackheart was going to help me, she told me that she had been hurt by an enemy clans warrior, the only thing i now see was they lie was the part were she said she died."

"i see..." I said in amazement "she has spoken to you? How so?"

"In dreams! She knew I needed help and she was there to help me! That is why I helped her, cause she would do the same for me!"

Before I could reply to her, a gentle tail tapped my shoulder. I turned and saw that it was a she-cat who I'd never met before.

"I am Snowfire of Riverclan." she said kindly "My leader says it was you who herd them coming and you who warned us. Was it?"

"Yes," I said blushing slightly with embarrassment "that was me, but really others must have heard it as well."

"I know the feeling," she said a small smile growing on her face "I was the only one in my clan to scent Skyclan when we had already

been fighting."

"Oh? So its true that Skyclan has returned to the forest."

"It is." she nodded

"Good, it is time for the clans to know of the true five clans." I purred

"Riversong!" I heard Amberstar calling me from the other side of the clearing
"I must go for now but I do hope we have a chance to talk again." I meowed bowing my head as i ran to Amberstars side,

It was a weird feeling to have a chat with a warrior of a different clan, normally I stuck to the medicine-cats or my own clan. But it was a good weird, because it meant that our clan had at least one ally in our forest.

Chapter Nine: Blackheart

Wind whistled through the trees as I sat in the forest, the battle at four trees seamed nothing but a horrible nightmare to me now even if it had only happened this night. For even the same full moon was showing the nearly blood-red sky as the sun rose, pushing the it away.

"Blackheart? A voice said from beside me,

'Yes Splashstar?' I replied, I was afraid to look at him in case he was not truly there, nothing but a voice in my head. But before I had a chance to turn he stepped in front of me.

"This battle is not won, a darkness comes that will soon be here."

'Splashstar, you know how i loath your riddles, I'm no medicine cat.'

"I speak what I can, no more, no less..." before I could ask what he meant a voice call from camp, it was Riversong. And as I blinked in silent response to her call, Spashstar vanished before my eyes.

I now sat in Riversong's den as she chattered away of the news she had herd from the other warriors.

"Foxpaw will need a new mentor," she muttered lastly "do you think Amberstar would chose you?"

-I doubt it,- I wrote on my stone -Amberstar will most likely choose a fit warrior that can continuously tell the apprentice what they need to work on.-

"Perhaps, but you and Foxpaw seamed to understand each other perfectly at four-trees."

I wiped off the previous letters I wrote and dipped a claw in the berry made ink -she did all the talking... I simply listened, a mentor needs to speak out loud to train an apprentice.-

"Blackheart!" I herd Tigerfang call from the fern entrance. To reply i scribbled a note onto my slab and held it up to Riversong to read out loud.

"Yes Tigerfang?" she meowed

"Amberstar asked me to mentor Foxpaw until Windclan changes back to Starclans side, is that okay with you?"

-yes.- I wrote

"Thanks I know how close you two are so I wanted you to know! The cerimony is at sun high, see you then!"

I glanced at my sister with a look that said 'told ya so', she just looked at the ground ears hot with embarrassment. Just then a scent hit my nose, it was Riverclan and Shadowclan but each scent seamed different then the original clan scents as thought they were combining to a new smell.

I walked into the clearing with Riversong flanking my side just as the two cats came in through the camp entrance.

"Snowfire," Riversong greeted with a semi friendly voice, "Why have you come to our camp, same to you..."

"I am Pinefall here not by the will to fight but by the will of Starclan." the Shadowclan tom replied

"We wish to speak to You and Amberstar, Privately." the white she-cat meowed "This is an important matter and we need to discuss it privately."

Riversong held the she-cats gaze for a moment before glancing at me then returning her eyes to Snowfire.

"I see..." she murmured then looked at me again

'What do you want from me?! Just go with them and speak!' I hissed in my thoughts. She seamed to understand from the look in my eyes when I thought it.

"Come with me." she mewed flicking her tail towards Amberstars den.

Only when the three cats tails dissapeared in the den did I return to my nest, after the battle Amberstar aloud me to return to the warriors den.

The den was quiet now for many of the warriors had left to patrol the Windclan and Shadowclan borders, the only cats left were Leafstorm and I. Luckily he was fast asleep, so I was able to easily let my mind fade to the forest that Splashstar roamed.

"Blackheart?" a tom gasped from in-front of me.

"Tigerfang!" I replied " what are you doing here?"

"A Starclan cat often speaks to me here."

"Who?" before he could reply a shadow from the edge of my vision began to slip into the clearing.

"Me." said the shadow who was now glimmering in the moonlit clearings light.

"Splashstar?" I gasped "But I thought you were a fox!"

"As I said before, I hold many forms, this is my last from i held as a warrior, as the leader of Windclan."

"You know this Starclan warrior?!" Tigerfang exclaimed, his green eyes burning my pelt.

"She has been leading me for a long time now... Since... I was attacked..."

"Tigerfang," Splashstar interrupted "Horrible times are ahead and five will be there to save us. You are one of the five. Blackheart has experience what may come of many others if the five cannot restore balance. She will help you find what is to come, for your path is led by thunder and hers by the darkness of the shadows cast by clouds that carry your thunder."

Her pelt then began to rise with fear before she finished " the danger is near! You must leave to your world before it finds you first!"

The smells from the warriors den woke me from my dream just as Tigerfang stumbled in to the den. "Blackheart! Is it true? Did you also experience that dream?"

I nodded to him.

"Why me? Why am I one of the five? Why not Riversong or you or..." Before he could go on I rested my tail over his mouth before he could ramble on, this war was not going to be won if the warrior meant to fight did not see why he needed to do this.

'You are not alone, I am here, and there are four others who hold the same fate.' I knew he could not hear my word but he seamed to feel what I felt simply from the air's new calm feeling.

"All old enough to catch their own prey join here beneath high-rock." Amberstar's voice sounded from the clearing.

As Tigerfang an I settled near the base of high-rock we intertwined our tails, just to show comfort each other even in the face of the danger that now loomed over us.

Chapter Ten: Riversong

I could see my sister sitting at the base of high-rock with Tigerfang, my pelt itched to join her, to forget the news I had just been told. But my clan needed me as a medicine cat and this is part of that job.

"Cats of Thunderclan," Amberstar started "We have reason to believe a warrior of our clan has received a dream from Starclan telling them of a power."

Tigerfangs glinted from were he sat but Blackheart held him still with her tail.

Snowfire who was flanking my side backed up what Amberstar said "A Starclan warrior has sent dreams to Pinefall and I, these dreams have come with grate powers that need to be used for one reason. Starclan has not told either of us the reason other then we must start a new clan."

"I have had a dream..." muttered Tigerfang "I was told that I needed to stop an evil from destroying us and that the shadow of a thundercloud would help me, also the warrior told me that I was the thunder it would bare."

Snowfire glanced at the Shadowclan warrior at her side. The Shadowclan warrior then began to speak where Snowfire left off.

"You need to help us, join our new clan, it may not be a permanent clan and I may just be one made to fight this evil. Either way we need all five to help us fight."

"Now listen here! You may all be here to fight the evil but, this is the Thunderclan deputy and he needs to stay with his clan, without our deputy our clan may be weakened! How do we not know this is just a plan to weaken us?!" Amberstar snarled at the warriors.

"We are not here to steal your warriors Amberstar, after all it was

not us who picked your deputy to join the will of starclan." soothed the Riverclan warrior

Blackhearts eyes caught mine for a second and in that moment I knew she wanted me to speak for her.

I leaped from the top of high rock and ran to my den, dragging the stone tablet out with me when I re-entered the clearing.

-I too was in Tigerfangs dream!- she wrote -I was told that I was the Dark cloud and that the evil is very near! We need to prepare for it as soon as possible!-

After i read for her Amberstars eyes changed from anger and suspicion to calm and collected. "I see but... What will we do..."

"Just let them go," I told Amberstar "ill go with them until they understand Blackheart."

"Riversong! You cant! We need you here as the medicine cat!" Amberstar snarled

"It will only be for a few sunrises, I will be back."

"Fine you may go, but first you must train one of our warriors. With Windclan and Shadowclan on edge we need a medicine cat here, now."

I nodded in response and looked to the warriors sitting in the crowd, searching for the warrior i would mentor. I had no clue who i could choose.

"I'll do it." meowed a silvery blue she-cat as she stood up.

"Thank you Whitespot. We will begin training at once."

~Training Whitespot took only a few moments for all I needed to do was show her the battle remidies and simple ones. And with that we were off.~

Chapter Eleven: Blackheart

Only moments after Riversong finished teaching Whitespot the medicine basics the six of us left for Windclan territory.
My fur prickled at this thought for windclan was the last place I wished to go. After all Whitestar was there and he was not worthy of being trusted.

"Here we are..." murmured Riversong as we reached the Windclan border.

One scent reached out to me the most, Whitestar. His rank scent sent shivers up my neck, but if I was lucky he would not let his dark powers loose on us this time.

Tigerfangs fur also seamed to prick with unease, but he did not know what I had faced only a few moons ago. We were led by Snowfire into the camp, her body did not show any of her feelings, if she had any to be shown now at all.

Just as we prepared to cross the scent line, a fresh scent appeared. And followed by it was a sleek brown tom who's amber eyes were filled with distrust and hate. "Who are you?" he snarled "a new clan or something, do you expect me to let you just prance on our territory? Tell me before my claws find your eyes!"

"We have business to discuss with your leader." I herd Snowfire snarl at him in reply

For a moment his eyes seamed to glisten with a speck of fear, but he quickly hid it.

"Fine, follow me." he spat angrily

At the Windclan camp we were greeted by hisses and threats from scared enemy warriors who still bore the recent fights anger.

The Tom who had escorted us to the camp left us and walked to

what must have been Whitestars den.

His voice hit me like claws being raked across my face as he yowled angrily at the Tom.

It was clear we were not welcome.

Once Whitestar finished and a now-saddened brown Tom left his den, he called us in.

I really did not want to go in there, I would rather die, but Tigerfangs tail wound with mine caused me to fine a slight amount of courage which was enough to make me go in.

Whitestars navy blue eyes met mine as I entered the den, he knew who I was, he knew I did not like it here, he knew He could easily over power me in a seconds time, he knew... Something that I did not know just yet.

"What do you want?" he asked us a hint of aggression threatening his calm voice.

"Bare some important news-" Snowfire said beginning her explanation of our quest.

When she finished Whitestars eyes hid their emotion, but it was clear to me that those eyes held one thing he could not hide- darkness, pure evil darkness.

"So that's why your scents are mixing, to form a new clans scent."

"Yes, Blackheart and Tigerfang are thunder and clouds, I am river, Pinefall is shadow, and I think that Dewkit may be another shadow." Snowfire said flicking her tail at each of us in turn.

"What about her?" Whitestar hissed looking at Riversong.

I wish I could have stood up for her but with my voice gone she would need to do so herself.

"I am here to translate for Blackheart, her voice has been stolen and to speak she writes on this," she let her tail rest on my stone slab.

"then I read it out-loud so others can understand her."

Whitestar nodded "So why are you here?"

Dewkit flicked her tail back and forth through the air with a different rhythm in each stroke, as soon as Snowfire began speaking again I understood this was Dewkits way of speaking. And at that moment I longed to understand her, and to be able to speak with the ease she used in her tail.

"Do you wish to learn her language Blackheart?" Snowfire asked me kindly as if speaking to a kit, I didn't like how she said it but I did wish to learn. So I nodded.

Dewkit quickly said something with her tail and for a moment Snowfire didn't seam to understand her but she quickly found out and turned her eyes back to me.

Our exchange bothered Whitestar, I could feel it in the ground. He did not want me to speak at all. Quickly he calmed himself down and spoke again, "So I need to call forth a meeting don't I?"

We all nodded, his eyes became slits as he left the den to call forth his clan.
As he leaped onto his calling place he said the words that made all of thoughts in his clan gather.

Snowfire exchanged a glance with him and began to explain to the cats that surrounded us. Taking my place at the center of the clearing I began to listen.

"We are looking for a cat with powers of the wind! Do any of you know of these powers, or have them?" When she paused and waited for a response a black she-cat stood up, she had a silvery grey chest and paws, her blue eyes were clouded with fear.

"I am Silversong. I-I have been experiencing weird powers lately and I think I may be the one you want."

"Good!" Snowfire perked up, "So that's every one but Skyclan!" and with that we left the camp, leaving Whitestars hostile glare behind us.

As we walked toward the Riverclan camp I chose to wander away from the group, to get some alone time.

I went into the territory I knew best, my old clans territory, Thunderclan. I knew no one would challenge me there, even with the new clans scent already forming on my pelt.

The sweet smell of rabbit hit the roof of my mouth as I walked, my mind searched for a memory of when I had last eaten, it felt as if it had been long ago, so I choose to hunt.

Letting my body drop into the hunters crouch I sniffed again for the rabbit. It was near. Slowly I stepped forward, then sniffed again. Now it was only a tail length away and I could see it's white fluffy tail in front of me.

Then I leaped and let my teeth find it's throat. The taste of fresh kill was wonderful on my tongue..

Once finished I tasted the air for the rest of my new clan, but I only caught a faint trace of them, a different scent was closer and definitely fresher.

'Splashstar?' I asked in my head.

"I'm sorry.." he whispered

'Why?'

"They are with me, they followed me, I am sorry..."

'Who?' I asked quickly *'please Splashstar who followed you?!'*

I expected Splashstars quiet voice to reply but instead I herd her shreak in pain.

"Hello Blackheart." a new voice snarled "Remember me?"

I knew that scent, it was a scent that I had not smelt since I had been a younger warrior, a scent that carried a darkness that I thought I had long forgoten...

'Badgersoul.'

Chapter Twelve: Riversong

After Blackheart wandered I had chosen to follow Snowfire and Pinefall back to the Riverclan camp.

It was weird being in a different territory other then my own, after all I was still going to return to Thunderclan and continue being their Medicine cat just as Starclan had told me to do the night I became an apprentice.

Suddenly a starry cat appeared in front of me, it was the Windclan warrior I had spoken to at the Moonstone.

"A Leaf's Edge Carries the Trace of a Snare That Has Been Cast." Splashstar murmured the prophecy and when he fully faded from view a red leaf fell to the ground where he stood, though I knew it was red simply from the coming Leaffall it almost looked as though it was dipped in blood.

My mind immediately flipped to Blackheart who was in the forest alone, but then I herd a yowl of pain come from the Riverclan camps direction.

I sprinted strait to the sound.

When I got in the camp it was bustling with life and the stench of freshly spilled blood was everywhere. I looked around quickly to find Snowfire, but instead I bumped into Feathersplash who was carrying a lump of cobweb in her mouth.

"What happened?" I sputtered

"Leafkit attacked Snareclaw, he's seriously injured and I really don't have the time to talk with you." she said after setting down the cobweb, "now help me out by grabbing this, take it to my den while I go get more."

I did as I was told and picked up the cobweb, the Medicine-den was

easy to find because it was only a few tail lengths from were I bumped into Feathersplash.

The den felt hot and the air was sticky, my fur pricked with anger when I saw what the kit had done, (how could a kit do such harm to a warrior?) I thought to my self as I began pressing the cobwebs to the warriors belly-wound, he grunted in his pain.

The last time I had seen this much blood was when Blackheart... But these were not the same wounds as Blackheart, luckily...

Chapter Thirteen: Blackheart

'Badgersoul...'

"You bet it's me, I figured it was time for a family reunion." his voice brought back nightmares from kithood, my neck hair was standing strait out. This was real and I knew it.

The darkness...

The memories...

The pain...

It was all from him.

'How dare you come back!' I hissed spining around to face him. He looked the same as I had remembered, his yellow-green eyes were still just as discusting.

"well it was hard to, so, I think I'll stay." his voice was shrill, icy enugh to sent goosebumps crawling across my pelt.

'What do you want from me?'

His eyes turned to slits and he stood up at this question, then he began to walk slowly around me as he spoke,

"Remember the night Whitestar attacked you?"

I nodded, his eyes glinted with pleasure "You do know how foolish some cats are, doing things that are for themselves and saying it's for the sake of their clan. Well he did it, he is the one who stoped me from killing you. I am the one who stole your voice. Though I am afraid it is perminent, the voice being gone I mean, because I never really took it, it's still there it's just been damaged- so badly it can't heal it's self."

'Why did you do it?' my mind raced with possible answers to this

question.

"So you would keep my secret, I knew this day would come, the day I told you what you have that is mine." he paused dramaticly

"You, Blackheart, are to be the mother of my kits!"

'What?! But Tigerfang killed you, he stoped you before that ever happend!'

"Well technicly they will be Whitestar and yours, but I'm the one who made them."

No... Halfclan kits, it was against the code! At lease Whitestar looked some what like Tigerfang... I could tell him he was the father.

"Whitestar knows Blackheart, he let me do it! He wanted you to suffer, just like I did."

Badgersouls black and white pelt was leaveing off huge waves of happiness, I couldn't stand his happiness for this. My claws met his face and I could feel them tair his skin, now a fresh wound was bleeding upon his so... Joyous face. his smile lowered to a frown.

"I wouldn't if I were you," he hissed seriously "I can make you pay, more than you have already."

'These kits are mine to bare! I will be their mother and you, will be nothing, tigerfang is to be the true father.'

"Say what you wish, but Whitestar knows they are his, and he will take them at any cost." with that he turned to leave but stoped when he reached the body of Splashstar, he lowered his head and hissed into his silky blue ear

"And if you get brave again, a horrible future shall be waiting..."

Then he was gone.

Chapter Fourteen: Riversong

I could feel grief well within me as I watched Snareclaw in pain, it seemed like forever until he was at last asleep.

Snowfire was crying to herself as she sat next to him though I could not catch what she was saying. Leafkit needed to be stopped but I hadn't a clue how.

When Blackheart arrived in the Riverclan camp she kept to herself until Dewkit confronted her and they began to swap languages. Because of Dewkit's deafness it was easy for her to read Blackheart's lips and for them to speak like that.

It looked as though I would soon be going back to Thunderclan...

When I returned to the medicine den I found Feathersplash sorting herbs and Snowfire lying with Snareclaw.

"Do you think he'll make it?" I asked quietly

"I could have asked you the same thing. But no, I don't think so."

I nodded "I don't think so either, he's lost a lot of blood, and he has so many internal injuries that was can't even touch. I feel bad for Snowfire though she never even got to say good bye."

"Yea... But I hope he does live, he had so much more ahead of him." with that the conversation ended and Feathersplash showed me to a nest at the edge of the den.

My mine wandered for a bit flashing back to how Blackheart had looked before she was learning to speak with her tail. But I quickly discarded the thought as I fell asleep.

I awoke early the next morning, the sun wasn't even in the sky yet, I could feel that somthing was wrong, something had happened when I was sleeping.

Looking at Snareclaw I knew what it was, he was awake and in a lot of pain. Feathersplash was at his side with Snowfire, they were talking. When they stopped talking Snowfire hung her head but seemed to be muttering somethings under her breath, as if to someone that was unseen. She only lifted her head in time to see Snareclaw's body shiver and then... he stopped breathing as his life left it.

I didn't know if I should comfort Snowfire or if I shouldn't. She looked as though she needed a friend though but I knew not to say anything, because that would only make it worse. So I walked up to she quietly and rested my tail on her shoulder for a moment before she looked at me with thanks in her eyes and walked away.

The camp was struck with grief, not only Riverclan, but Skyclan as well. Snareclaw had been popular among them, and though I did not know him, even on his death bed I could feel an aroma of strength that not many warriors held.

As I sat at the edge of the clearing, watching those who knew Snareclaw best share tongues with him for the last time, I wondered what I would have felt if Blackheart had died in the attack, the thought made me shutter.

I caught Blackhearts eye when she came out of the warriors den with Tigerfang at her side, her face showed saddness for the Riverclan warrior who had lost his life, but her eyes were clouded with dark thoughts. As she walked over to me I saw that she carried the stone with her.

She flicked her tail in the air, the movement reminded me of how she wrote with the berry ink and tablet for it looked as though she was writing a syllable in the air like she would on the stone. Then when she pointed to a word on the tablet and waved her tail again I knew I was right. Now we could speak easily without carrying the stone everywhere.

-Please Riversong,- she wrote in the air -Teach Tigerfang how I speak so I can talk to him!-

I nodded and turned to Tigerfang "She want me to teach you. Do

you want to learn?"

"Of coarse! I'd do anything to talk with her!"

I knew that would be his answer but I also knew that Blackheart would want to hear him say it.

We began our lessons at once, using the stone tablet as a reference to the letters and using Blackheart to show how to write it with her tail, it was way past Sun-high before we stopped for a break. Tigerfang was learning rapidly and he would know the language by sundown.

The camp was nearly deafeningly quiet when I came back from teaching Tigerfang, and it hit me that I had forgotten of Snareclaws death. My hunger vanished in a flash when the memory shook me, but soon we would need to return to our journey. Well they would, and I would return to Thunderclan...

Blackheart came up from behind me with anxiety rolling off of her in waves, something was still trobling her and I needed to know what it was.

"Whats wrong Blackheart?" I whispered so know one else could hear us.

-I worry about Foxpaw, I haven't spoken to him in a while and with Tigerfang gone he is once again mentor-less.- I had a feeling that what she told me wasn't the whole truth but I responded kindly anyway.

"Perhaps Amberstar choose a new mentor, after all he hadn't fully appointed Tigerfang to the duty."

Blackheart replied with a quick -Okay- and walked toward the warriors den. She was definitely not okay.

Chapter Fifteen: Blackheart

Snowfire had disappeared the day after Snareclaws death, she was gone for a long time so I began to get worried, I couldn't speak to anyone other then Riversong, Snowfire, Dewkit, or Tigerfang. And with Snowfire gone well it was like my clan just lost twenty percent of it's warriors which is basically what would happen if she never came back.
"Umm.. Excuse me? Blackheart?" a black Tom asked as he walked up to me. "I understand your uhhh.... Tail talk a little bit so I think I know enough for us to speak, I kinda listened in when Riversong was teaching Tigerfang."

-what do you need? I mean I don't think I can do much for you but if you want to just talk I'm fine with that- I said while moving my tail slowly so he could easily follow.

"Its about Snowfire, oh umm.. I'm Blackpelt by the way, sorry I didn't say anything sooner." he said blushing

-And, what is it about Snowfire?-

"Well aren't you worried about her? She's been gone a while and I'm worried so I was thinking- if you could help me find her?"

- Yea I'm worried, she's been gone since moon-high who isn't worried? And of coarse I'll help find her.-

"Thanks... I think I caught her scent near the river earlier so we can start there."

-Okay, but first I'm going to tell Dewkit-

After telling Dewkit what we were going to do she rushed to Bramblestar, I knew she was going to tell him that we were planning to find Snowfire so we left before she could come back with him.

Blackpelt was right about Snowfires scent being at the river, and from the looks of things she might have even fallen in.

"we have to find her, after all she is Riverclan, she might have swam not fallen in." Blackpelt murmured

-you go down stream I'll go up!- i wrote a little faster this time and hoped that he could read it, by the way his amber eyes gleamed with excitement.

"Deal and I'll come find you here at moon-high if we don't meet back at camp. Or I can follow your scent up river if I find her first?"

-Sure, let's go with the third one.-

Once we split up the walk along the river felt weird after all normally I was on the other side of it, in Thunderclan territory. After a while I still hadn't caught Snowfires scent but the smell of vole was tempting, so I choose to stop and hunt, after all if I was to have kits...

I stopped thinking about it and began my hunt. The vole was easy to catch, and as I ate it I welcomed it's warm energy as it seeped through my muscles giveing me new energy.

After eating I searched for a long time and as the moon rose I chose to return to the Riverclan camp, stopping to hunt for the clan along the way.

"Blackheart" Bramblestar called from his den, as I rushed to greet him he continued, "Dewkit told me about Snowfire, have you found her yet?"

Apparently since Dewkit told him of our plans it meant he would understand me -I haven't found her yet, but Blackpelt is still looking. I'm sorry we left in a rush but we needed to find her.-

"Its fine, I just hope that Blackpelt finds her soon, the meeting she called will soon be happening and she NEEDS to bee there." I nodded "Anyway I also needed to speak with you about something

else, though I was hoping the Snowfire would be here as well..."

- What is it?- I pleaded

"Its about you finding your own territory... You guys may still all be loyal to your clans but you can't just live with my clan for ever. No offence but your like loners now, or like Snowfire said you are starting your own clan, and even at the will of Starclan I cannot let a new clan eat food from my clans territory. I apologize and hope you understand this."

-I understand but if Starclan wanted us to save the clans why would they send us away from the clans?-

"I don't know, but perhaps you can stay in a different clans border, or at Fourtrees, or you can all separate into groups to search for the meaning. Where ever you go I can't let you mooch from my clan moon after moon."

-We have only been here for a a few moon-rises! We have been her for Snareclaws vigil and no longer, we have hunted for your clan as well as Skyclan! You haven't the right to call us mooches! Snowfire is Riverclan blood, or does that not matter to you?-

"Of coarse it matters! It pains me to send her away but she is no longer Riverclan she said so herself!"

-Fine if you wish some of us to leave then let it be, but we have business in Skyclan to deal with, we still need to find the Sky elemental. Then I can assure you that we will leave without your say so.-

"Good," he quieted his tone "I will not mention this to Snowfire then. You may now leave."

As much as I didn't like his choice of reasoning I admitted that Bramblestar had a point, we couldn't just all become Riverclan cats. And I needed a safe place to nurse my kits when their time came.

Before I could see them I could scent them, Blackpelt and Snowfire had just returned to camp. As I padded my way up to them I flicked my tail in a friendly hello. Snowfire nodded as well as Blackpelt but

before either could say anything they were called by Bramblestar and they both rushed to his den.

When they returned from Bramblestars den I saw Bramblestar nod towards a tall Tom with Ginger spots, one of which was covering one of his blue eyes. In only a moment I knew that he was the leader of Skyclan.
The two leaders began to walk side by side towards the camp entrance but stopped and sat waiting for us to join them.

I jumped when Snowfire Began speaking to me, "Bramblestar wants us to get everyone from our new clan together, we are leaving to the meeting at four-trees now." I nodded and noticed that Blackpelt was also standing at her side.

-Are you Skyclans representative?- I asked him calmly

"Uhhh.. Yea, sorry I didn't tell you I was Skyclan earlier. I wanted to speak with Snowfire first."

-Okay then , I'll go get Tigerfang, Pinefall, Riversong, and Silversong.-

"Oh wait Blackheart!" Snowfire said quickly before I could go get the others "Don't bring Riversong, She isn't really a part of out clan and she isn't needed to interpret you anymore so I think she will be headed back to Thunderclan soon."

-'Kay, I'll tell her that and then she can head home tomorrow,- I wrote as I headed to our den, she was right but I hoped that I could bare my kitting without my sister at my side.

Chapter Sixteen: Riversong

"Whitespot, you have served us well as a temporary medicine-cat. But now that Riversong has returned from her journey. We thank you for loyalty, and would like to welcome you back as a warrior." Amberstar said while standing on high-rock.

"Whitespot! Whitespot!" cheered nearly everyone in the thunderclap camp.

The only one not cheering was me, as I sat watching from the medicine-den. Ever since I had returned to camp none of my clan mates had treated me as though I had betrayed them when all I did was follow the will of Starclan.

I could feel the cold stare of Leafstorm burning into my pelt as he sat near me. But as I whipped my head to glare back at him he looked away, turning his eyes towards Amberstar as she brought the meeting to a close.

While I had been gone several things had happened to the clan, apparently Windclan had been attacking our border patrols, and Leopardpaw had earned his warrior name as Leopardfang. Not only that but in Tigerfang's absence, Amberstar had named Leafstorm as Deputy.

The biggest event that had baffled me was the new cat who Amberstar had let into our clan, she had been a rogue, but through her wanderings she had bumped into a patrol and been taken prisoner, as she stayed she grew to enjoy clan life and thus she earned her warrior name Nettleblossom. The clan now seemed to trust her even more then they trusted me.

"Riversong." Amberstar mewed as she walked over to face me, "I need to speak with you in private. Do you mind?"

"No I don't mind. We can talk in my den." I replied as I turned and stalked into the medicine den and sat towards the back.

Shorty after I sat down Amberstar walked in and sat in front of me and began to speak. "Echostreams kits are ready to be apprenticed, Darkkit favors medicine cat duties over those of a warrior and he has asked to become your apprentice. Are you ready to take on this task?" she asked as she finished

"I'm ready Amberstar, but what I want to know is if the clan would welcome me to having such a duty. Leafstorm especially seems to have his eyes watching me when ever I'm in sight." I murmured, I had been ready for an apprentice since the moment Moonglow, our previous medicine-cat had died, but if the clan didn't see me as a trustworthy member, then it would be better to not even try to raise one of their own.

"It may take time for them to see you in your place Riversong, but I know you did what you thought was right, and I would not have stopped you either way. What is done is done and soon they will see that you are still as you once were." the red-orange she-cat purred.

"But I'm not the same, I've lost my sister, my mother, and my father, I feel hollow as a dead tree. Perhaps Whitespot should take over for me, after all, the clan trusts her." I snapped

"Riversong," Amberstar said as she looked me square in the eyes. "As your leader I will tell you one thing, your duty is to be Thunderclan's medicine-cat and to prove that you are loyal to us you must first prove your loyalty to Starclan.

Meeting her gaze I straitened up and replied "My loyalty to Starclan has never faltered, but Amberstar answer me this, how can I be loyal to a clan who would not show the same respect to me?"

Amberstar seemed baffled at my accusation and for a moment she stood before me speechless, "As a clan-cats we earn our respect by doing our duties, we are not rogues, loners nor kitty-pets! I will not let you wallow in self-pity, you will take Darkkit as your apprentice and you will teach him all you know for it is what he wants not what you wish!" She hissed before turning and exiting my den.

Perhaps she was right and this apprenticeship would help me earn

my clan-mates respect. But either way apprentice or not, Starclans will bonds me to Thunderclan, even if my heart does not.

"Darkkit do you promise to uphold the duties of a medicine-cat and to protect and serve not only Thunderclan, but every Clan-cat at any and every cost?" Amberstar asked Darkkit from the top of highrock.

"I do." Darkkit responded bravely, his sleek black fur rippleing with pride as he stood by Speckledpaw who had already earned their warrior apprentice name.

"Then by the will of Starclan I give you your apprentice name, Darkkit, from this moment on your name shall be Darkpaw and your mentor will be Riversong."

My pelt pricked with pleasure as Darkpaw gently touched his noes to my shoulder. My first apprentice! If only Blackheart could be here to see this, but hopefully we would meet at the gathering tonight.

"Darkpaw! Speckledpaw! Darkpaw! Speckledpaw!" the camp cheered, this time with me joining in. Nettleblossom sat next to me, her pelt growing hot with embarrassment, but her voice clear as she called her new apprentices name to silverpelt as well as Darkpaws.

After the clan calmed down Amberstar began to list off the clan members who would be attending the gathering.

"Leafstorm, Nettleblossom, Whitespot, leopardfang, Speckledpaw, Darkpaw, Greyfoot, and Riversong. I would like you all to prepare for tonights gathering with the new clan. Skyclan will also be attending so it is a rather important event for all clans." After announcing the names Amberstar leaped down from High-rock and padded into her den at the base.

Slowly I looked around the clearing as my clan-mates came in turn and greeted the new apprentices, they seemed to all have forgotten that I had left and returned. But as my glance reached the nettle

bush near the fresh kill pile a flower caught my eye, and a quiet voice tasked in my ear. "A blossom shows beauty... yet thorns can easily break it's peace." the blossom sat in the center of the nettles but soon a pelt crossed my vision and when the bush was again in view, the blossom lie on the ground trampled with a thorn sticking out of it's center.

"Please Starclan..." I whispered "I can only handle one prophecy at a time, why do you do this to me now?"

"Riversong?" Darkpaw said excitedly "What do we do now? Will you teach me herb mixtures?"

I smirked at him, my apprentice, I really didn't feel ready but apparently Amberstar thought I was. "For now let's get your nest made in my den, then we'll go to the gathering."

"Okay!" he purred as he sprinted off to the medicine den.

I would have followed him but something caught my eye, Nettleblossom was still siting at my side while her apprentice was rushed off to the apprentice-den by Goldenpaw, she seemed to be puzzled. So I chose to see what was up.

"You okay Nettleblossom?" I asked as I turned to face her.

"I don't understand what I have to do now, I'm a mentor but my apprentice isn't here to be trained." she replied. It was obvious that she still felt as though she were an outsider.

"Let her get settled tonight, then you can begin training tomorrow. Besides you won't have time to train her before the gathering."

She nodded "Thank you Riversong, I'm glad you came back, it must be so strange to come back with your clan so different then when you left, especially with me here."

"It's not all that that makes me feel weird, it's that I no longer have my sister at my side to endure clan life with."

"I understand, well you better get to your apprentice before he goes through all the herbs with dirty paws." she mewed just as Darkpaw

yowled from the den.

"I guess so," I purred "I'll see you when we leave for the gathering."

Then I turned and padded towards my den.

"Good!" Darkpaw said as I entered the medicine clearing, his head peeking out of the den "I thought you would never come! What were you doing?"

"I was speaking to Nettleblossom. Have you finished making your nest?"

"Yes, I'm finished. So what do we do now?"

"We prepare for the gathering. Go get some fresh kill, we are going to have a long night ahead of us."

"Do you want something as well?" Darkpaw asked as he turned and began walking out of the medicine clearing.

"No I'm good." I mumbled while listening to his paw steps as he padded away.

As soon as he left I went into my den, the familiar scent of herbs was joined by Darkpaw's fresh scent and the feint trace to Whitespot. It felt strange to be back in Thunderclan, it felt like this wasn't even my den anymore, as if I had never been here in the first place.

"Your clan needs you." a voice razors from behind me.

"Splashstar... I don't understand this, these prophecies, all this change. Was I mention to be left behind in this clan that disregards me?" I sobbed

"They know that you are loyal, that's why Darkpaw wanted you as a mentor, and why Amberstar let him choose you as a mentor instead of choosing Whitespot. You are not alone you will always have your clan." Splashstar said as she walked around me and sat at my side, with her fox tail laying on my shoulders reassuringly.

"I DON'T WANT MY CLAN!" I hissed as I pushed her away, "I WANT MY FAMILY BACK!"

"Your clan is your family, you will find this with time, just as we all do." she whispered in my ear as her body faded from view, leaving her star-like scent behind to linger in my den, and before I could call her back, or to even thank her I was interrupted by Amberstar's voice as she called all those she had named for the meeting.

As we stood at the edge of the slope which led to the Four-trees clearing I tried to make out my sister among the other clan cats. I soon easily spotted her from were she sat, her scars acted as a dead give away. Tigerfang sat by her side, his tail gently intertwined with hers.

I was so intent on seeking out Blackheart that I hadn't noticed Nettleblossom as she walked over to my side.

"Which one is Blackheart?" she gasped as she caught a glance of all the cats below.

"Shes just over there." I said as I pointed my tail at her. "She's the one with the scars, the tom sitting next to her is Tigerfang."

"Oh... How did she get those scars?" Nettleblossom asked as she looked at my sister.

"I'd rather not say..." I muttered.

Before we could continue our conversation Amberstar flicked her tail, signaling for us to join the other clans.

As we sprinted down the slope Nettleblossom stayed near me obviously cautious of the many cats that now surrounded her, Darkpaw flanking my other side and Speckledpaw flanking Nettleblossom.

"Stay near me." I mewed to Darkpaw who stared wide eyed at the other clans then nodded quickly as we all joined them.

Of coarse I quickly sprinted toward Blackheart and Tigerfang. Blackheart quickly stood up once she saw me.

'Riversong!' she said quickly with her tail, 'I'm so glad that Amberstar chose you to come!'

"I'm glad to see you again too Blackheart!" I purred.

"Hey Blackheart..." Nettleblossom greeted uncertainly, I had forgotten to tell her that Blackheart was mute. Blackheart seemed unsure as well so I

chose to introduce them to each other.

"Blackheart, this is Nettleblossom. Nettleblossom, this is Blackheart." I said then added quietly to Nettleblossom "I'm sorry I forgot to tell you, but she lost her voice."

Nettleblossom quickly understood and nodded to Blackheart just as Bramblestar began the gathering.

"Welcome to the gathering." he started, he seemed much happier than he had been during the last gathering... The one where there had been what seemed to be no truce... "camp life in Riverclan has been very exciting lately. I'm sure you have all heard by now but if you haven't Riverclan has found the lost Skyclan." he paused as the other clans cheered and continued when the cheers dwindled to quiet murmurs "for many many moons; generations have wondered what had happened to them, but that I am sure Harestar will explain." as he said Harestars name he flicked his ears at the Skyclan leader.

"Another exciting bit of news is that Snowfire one of my best warriors has left Riverclan to claim a new clan." after he said this Snowfire straitened her back from were she sat on the high-rock, then a dark, sad expression crossed the Riverclan leaders face before he continued "She will explain that also, we have had one terrible death; Snareclaw another of my best warriors and also Snowfires best friend was murdered!" his claws seethed as he said this. "By a Shadowclan member who acted as a spy; Leafkit."

Dark silence followed Bramblestars words, it was joined by the intense crackling of hate that filled the air.

My fur tingled as I watched what was happening from my seat below, Darkpaws fur was growing hot, and as I turned to look at him I saw that he was glaring at Whitestar and mouthing words that I couldn't make out.

A loud snarl sounded from High-rock and I quickly snapped my eyes to the leaders again. Feintstars eyes were filled with a black sense of joy, though before he could continue his remark Snowfire hissed threateningly at him, her expression darkened with hate and anger.

"You sent him didn't you!"

"Yes," Feintstar hissed back as he turned his gaze from Bramblestar to her, "I did! And he did a wonderful job too."

Snowfires muscles tensed as she sat seething and unsheathing her claws, her fur was bristling with hate, as she looked at him and attempted to calm her voice as she said "Thank you for telling me that."

It was obvious that she was having trouble keeping the truce, though she was able to control herself and relax her muscles.

"If you are done Snowfire," Bramblestar started "I shall finish up and let Whitestar take over. now I am willing to let Snowfire's clan take some of our Territory, also I would like to say that if Feintstar or any of his clan are found on our territory they will be attacked and left with quite a few scars to remember us by." Bramblestar said finishing his threat and nodding for Whitestar to continue the meeting.

Whitstar kept his short, and seemed to be back to normal, as though he had never sided with Shadowclan "Yes," he said as he excepted Bramblestars offer "and I would like to say that Windclan can give some territory as well, though we cannot give very much, I am sorry to say, but our clan has been having some trouble with two-legs who have taken a liking to rabbits....."

Once Whitestar finished he glanced expectantly at Blackheart, who's fur began to prickle with unease.

"You okay Blackheart?" I whispered

She quickly shook her head and flicked her tail to say no.

"What's wrong?" I asked gently

'I'll tell you after the gathering, when no one else can see what I have to say.' Blackheart said quickly with her tail.

"Okay..." I replied, I glanced at Nettleblossom to see if she had seen any of our conversation no that she would have understood anything Blackheart had said.

She was looking expectantly at me, she had seen it, not only that but she had seen Whitestar's look as well.

"You know," she said quietly "I think Blackheart is expecting kits."

"What?!" I gasped

"It's just that I saw my sister when she was expecting and Blackheart seams to be about two moons pregnant."

I looked back at Blackheart who was gazing up at high-rock. Wouldn't that be something to be proud of? Why was Blackheart not okay with it?

My thoughts were interrupted by Amberstar who had begun to speak, as Whitestar flicked his tail for him to go next.

"Thunderclan has been doing well this green-leaf. Two of our cats have also joined this new clan; Blackheart and Tigerfang. because of this we needed to appoint a new deputy, i have chosen Leafstorm to fill Tigerfangs place. We have two new warriors Nettleblossom, and Leopardfang, and two new apprentices Darkpaw and Speckledpaw. My clan is willing to give a small amount of territory to the new clan, I believe that we will give the aria near the strip of Riverclan territory that is thin and and goes between the Thunderclan and Windclan, I believe that way the new clan could have axis to all

territories given by us other clans." Amberstar looked to the other leaders to see if they had his agreement, both Bramblestar and Whitestar nodded in agreement.

"My clan is glad that the lost clan is able to join us again, but where will they stay? Our territories cannot be given to all who come and ask." Amberstar said as he glanced at Harestar.

"My clan does not plan to stay, we have our own territory up the river, but to us it always seemed that the other clans were just a story for kits. So we came to see if it was al true. We will soon go home I can assure you." Harestar replied.

"Okay," Amberstar said "Thunderclan is done, Feintstar, you may now go."

Feintstar hissed angrily as he strode forward, "My clan has no territory to give to this new clan, we have no will to give our territory to traitors!" the leaders eyes glared at Pinefall, who sat with the deputies. "Other then that I have nothing to say." when Feintstar finished he glared at Harestar telling him to come to a stand.

"My clan is proud to be among you all, this is the first gathering where we are actually sharing our events with clans other then Starclan and ourselves." He said as he looked over the other clans. "Clan life where I come from is good and we plan on leaving as soon as Leaf-bare comes to an end, for the journey is long and would be harsh during the cold weather. Other then that I have nothing to announce of my clan." Harestar then seeped back and nodded at Snowfire.

She stepped forward and looked around the clearing letting her gaze fall on each clan cat in the clearing. "I am glad that you have all aloud me to speak tonight, I hope to soon receive my name and nine lives so I can be an official leader to our clan. We don't yet have a name to call ourselves, but I'm hoping to also have that solved soon. Thank you for the territory, I'm sure that it will enough to support my clan. You all know at least one member in my clan each, from Riverclan there is me and Dewkit, she has reached well over six moons and one of my first duties will give her an

apprentice name, from Shadowclan we have Pinfall he is to be deputy, from Thunderclan we have Tigerfang and Blackheart, from Windclan we have Silversong and from Skyclan we have Blackpelt." each cat straitened their backs as Snowfire called their name. "We will do our best to fulfill our duties laid down by Starclan." she then dipped her head and flicked her tail at, signaling for Bramblestar to end the meeting.

As he ended the gathering I looked at Blackheart again, Nettleblossom was right, Blackheart did seem to be larger then normal. Perhaps she was just worried about something else though, why would she not want her kits?

Once the gathering had ended and everyone had gone Blackheart and I sat facing each other. Darkpaw had gone with Nettleblossom and his sister Speckledpaw so I could have the moment alone with my sister.

"What's wrong?" I asked

'I'm pregnant...' she wrote in the air

"Why is that a bad thing? I thought you wanted kits, and so did Tigerfang. Aren't you guys happy?" I replied

'Tigerfang was thrilled... if they were his kits I would be as well.'

"What?!" I gasped "Who's kits are they?"

'Whitestars.' her fur bristled with anger as she wrote his name

"Why? How? When?!" I stammered

'The night he attacked me... Badgersoul helped him do it! He's come back, Riversong, you have to help me! I don't know what to do!' she picked up speed as she wrote, the words were becoming just small fragments of understandable parts of speech.

"Slow down Blackheart... I assured her as I brushed against her, "Tigerfang will understand, I understand. It was never your fault... Badgersoul will not get away with this, Starclan will stop him."

'thanks Riversong, I knew you would help if you could. I guess we should go to our clans now...'

"I hope to see you soon sister." I whispered as we touched noses and went our ways.

But as I reached the edge of the clearing I saw something, a figure staring at us with its two dark blue eyes as it stood on the moorland territory.

Chapter Seventeen: Blackheart

The clearing was now empty, and I sat alone just under the Four-trees at the base of the stone that leaders sat on for gatherings.

Riversong had only left me here a few moments ago, though my loneliness felt as though it had been moons. And through the quiet murmur of the creek bed and the chirps of crickets I thought that I herd a small twig snap from the undergrowth at the edge of the clearing, in the Thunderclan territory's direction.

I sat still with my eyes trying to make out and moving figures among the dense bracken. My claws unsheathed as I noticed the shadowy shape of a cat heading towards me. Bright amber eyes peered out of the leaves that hid it's pelt form my view and the breeze hid it's scent from my searching nose.

Then from my clans new territory I herd a rush of paw-steps, they came closer and closer until I could see the newcomers pelt as he streaked towards Four-trees. I realized with a jolt who it was.

"Blackheart!" he yowled as his deep green eyes blazed. "Are you coming back to camp or what?"

It was Tigerfang! My mind flicked back to the amber eyed cat that I had seen watching me from Thunderclan territory and I looked back over there.

The blazing amber eyes had seemed to disappear but the threatening presence pricked at my fur still.

Leaves cracked above my head in one of the four trees. I looked up only just in time to be flattened to the ground as a figure crashed down on top of me. His scent made me feel like I had been struck by a death blow. It was not only one scent though, it was two mixed together; both were to be feared though. I struggled out of the cats grip and stared in disbelief; the cat I face had two pelts, half was a horrible dark brown with a black upper half and a white

stripe leading from his nose to his tail tip, and the other with light grey with a white muzzle and black stripes on his tail. The pelts met at the center of the cats back and continued so the cat was equally colored. He even had one ugly yellow green eye and one dark blue.

"Hello again Blackheart." he hissed with two voices at once. "Surprised are you?"

Knowing that at least one half of the cat could hear me I spoke though only my thoughts. *'How?!*' I stammered in my mind. And just then a sleek tan tabby pelt walked to the cat's side.

"Leafstorm!" I herd Tigerfang gasp when he reached the moonlit clearing "What are you doing with Whitestar?" I realized that he could not see or hear Whitestars other half, Badgersoul.

Tigerfang joined us and stood at my side with his pelt prickling with shock.

"I've joined Whitestar, he has told me that this cat has broken the warrior code and he needs help in removing her from this forest!" Leafstorm spat as he arched his back and fixed his amber eyes on me.

"What she does has nothing to do with either of your clans!" Tigerfang snarled.

"Don't loose you patience on us Tigerfang." Badgersoul and Whitestar said in a soothing voice that I knew was only filled with trickery "What she has done involves you as well as I, she has betray you Tigerfang. And I am here to dis lodge this impure cat from you clan before what she has done effects us all."

"What is he talking about Blackheart?" Tigerfang asked as he turned to face me.

Useing my tail I replied 'I've done nothing! It's Badgersoul, he's taken over Whitestar! Can't you see it? He's just looking for a reason to kill me with out getting exiled!'

"Blackheart, Badgersoul is dead. This is just Whitestar." Tigerfang said looking back at Whitestar who gave me a defiant look.

"Good, so Tigerfang you understand?" he replied calmly as he took a step towards me.

'Tigerfang! It was him who did this to me! Why do you listen to him, he's a murderer!' I said so quickly in panic that my tail made whistling sounds in the air.

Tigerfang saw what I said and shot a glare at the two cats standing before us. "You are the one who attacked her?" he hissed angrily.

"You trust a traitor over a clan leader?" Whitestar and Badgersoul hissing back with fake disbelief.

"I trust my mate! What ever she's done I'm sure I will understand!" Tigerfang snapped.

I figured that before Whitestar told him what had happened I should tell him it from my point of view.

'They aren't your kits Tigerfang.' I said with my tail slumped 'Whitestar forced me to have his kits the night he attacked me. But I had nothing to do with it happening, he did it while I was knocked out...'

Tigerfang looked at me in shock but quickly turned his eyes to Whitestar, anger brushing off of him in waves "Y-You Raped her?!" his voice stuttered but anger made him stand still "You are the one who should die!"

Whitestar hissed back and looked at me in the eyes, there was anger but also regret. Was it that the Windclan leader didn't want to kill or was it that Badgersoul was sorry for all the evil he had done? I didn't know either way if I didn't fight back I was going to die.

Before I could react he leaped at me, claws glinting in the full moons light as it descended and the sun slowly grew into the sky.

Within moments I was held to the ground with the half cat standing over me, claws digging into me. I saw Tigerfang out of the corner of my eye as he fought Leafstorm.

Suddenly a huge streak of lightning appeared and Leafstorm

dropped to the ground. Tigerfang looked in surprise and rushed at Whitestar. He crashed into him and the two of them landed onto the ground next to me, static flowing from Tigerfangs pelt causing it to fluff up, small sparks flue from his claws each time he struck his enemy.

I suddenly felt fur brush against mine, was the fight over? Had I feinted?

Opening my eyes I looked at were I was, a small cave at the base of a waterfall? I must be at the new camp at the gorge. The scent of herbs filled my noes and I realized that I was in a medicine den, but who?

My legs ached as I struggled into a sitting position. I saw that three cats stood in front of me. Tigerfang, Snowfire and... Badgersoul. It was clear that I was dreaming outside of my body when I saw that the two living cats were looking down at my sleeping body I had left and they took no notice of Badgersoul though he sat next to them.

He looked at me with pure anger in his eyes, but he disappeared as I jerked awake into the real world. Pain filling my sides and stomach.

"She's awake!" I herd Snowfire gasp.

"You've been out for nearly a moon!" Tigerfang said quietly as he quickly walked to my side.

I felt light headed but the pain in my sides and stomach was real. Tigerfang realized what was happening and rush out of the den yowling a name. I couldn't hear it over the blood that pounded in my ears.

A few seconds later a blue-grey she-cat sprinted in with a small orange she-cat who had a brown stripe down her back.

"It's her kits!" Tigerfang gasped as he rush in behind them.

My eyes watered as I did as the medicine cats said, and by the end of it I had four kits. Two toms and two she-cats.

One she-cat was black just as I was, the other was greyish blue with an orange muzzle and tail tip. One of the toms was light grey all over with black stripes, almost like Tigerfang even if he was not their true father. The second toms pelt was black with white paws and a white underbelly. We named the first she-cat Midnightkit the second she-cat Splashkit and the toms were Greykit and Snowkit.

I knew the moment I saw Splashkits fur that I would not be seeing my Starclan guide for a long while, or would this kit remember her past lives just as she had before?

The medicine cats turned out to be Riversong and Foxpaw -or now that she was our medicine cat approved by Starclan- Foxfur.

"Whitestars dead." Tigerfang purred as he told me what had happened when I feinted.

I purred silently and nodded, my enemy had died and I felt safe, though I knew that Badgersoul still lurched in the darkness that had been in his heart in life. At least now my pain had ended.

'What about Leafstorm?' I asked with my tail.

"He apologized and explained that Whitestar had told him you planned to attack your old clan. I've told Amberstar what happened and she chose to name a new deputy and resign him to a warrior status again."

Resting my head on my paws, I listened as Tigerfang walked over and began to lick my head. I lifted my head and licked him back. Then I laid down again and let myself drift into sleep.

Chapter Eighteen: Riversong

My den was quiet, all the other cats in the camp had fallen asleep long ago; but I couldn't, my mind was set on the prophecys not just the darkness and swiftness one but the one about Nettleblossom. she had been so kind to me and I had to solve this for her before what ever the thorn was came and did what it was prophesied to do.

Without Splashstar here to help me I felt as though I was alone in this den, sure Darkpaw was there with me, but he hadn't had much sleep due to the fact that he had been alone in the camp for the time i had been out helping Blackheart, several cats had gotten white-cough over night after the gathering and Leafstorm had several wounds from his fight with Tigerfang.

Since that fight most of the clan stopped talking to him, but that still didn't mean that I was back in there trust, whenever a cat needed to be check for something it was Darkpaw they called to, the only cat that seemed to trust me was Nettleblossom, probably cause she was new as well, or at least newer then the clan-born cats.

"Riversong?" Darkpaw said quietly as he sat up from his nest, " You've been pacing all night, whats wrong?" I hadn't notice him being awake.

"Go back to sleep Darkpaw, you need it more then I do." I sighed in response.

he shook himself and walked over to were I was now standing, "no until you tell me whats wrong, I wont be able to sleep with your pacing anyway."

"Fine.." I grumbled "Starclan has sent me two prophecies. I don't know what either of them mean."

Darkpaw looked puzzled, "what were they?"

"The first one was 'Only The Darkness Of Thunder And Swiftness of River Can Save The Howling Wind.' and the other was 'A blossom shows beauty... yet thorns can easily break it's peace' the second one was given during you ceremony, the other has been given to me multiple times throughout my life, when i was an apprentice, and again recently. I still don't understand it though."

"well, i don't understand the second one.. but i think i have an idea for the first one. '...The Darkness Of Thunder...' could mean me, my name is Darkpaw after all and i think that their is a Swiftpaw in Riverclan, i met her at the gathering. She's Bluepaw's sister."

i closed my eyes and imagined the prophecy in my head, what Darkpaw said made perfect sense and i felt like i had just had several moons of weight lifted from my back. "Thank you Darkpaw, I don't know were you are getting your medicine cat skill, because I know that its not from me. " I purred, then opening my eyes I saw him settling back down in his nest.

"Now get some sleep," he sighed as he drifted back into sleep.

I knew he was right, that I needed some sleep: but I still had one more prophecy to figure out before it was to late to save her.

Quietly I walked out into the clearing and let myself gaze around, soft snores drifted from the warriors and apprentices dens but one other sound disturbed the quiet. I watched as Amberstar walked across the clearing and greeted me with a node.

"I see you cant sleep either." she murmured

"I needed to get out and think about some things." i replied

"Well I needed to talk to you any way so since your up do you mind?" she asked

"Go ahead, I'm not returning to my nest for a while yet anyway."

"i wasn't sure if you knew yet, but I lost another life while you were away." she sighed "A fox attacked a patrol i was on. Darkpaw did an amazing job though and cleaned my wounds so none of the others noticed."

"So this is your last life?" I asked

She nodded "It is, I'm glad you told me about Leafstorm though, it would have be a horrible mistake if he became leader... so many of our and other clans warriors would have been fighting in battles that would not be needed to be fought."

"Echostream will make a good deputy, she know kindness from having kits and she is one of our clans fiercest fighters in battle, she has always stuck to the code and is well trusted among her clan-mates as well as by other clans."

"Queens and their mates tend to make the best leaders since they experience what no other warriors have."

"Not all Queens or mates..." i said reminding her of my parents.

"Your mother loved you, if you had known her you would know that."

"How could she love me when she left me?"

"She was forced to leave you... your father threatened to kill her if she didn't give you to him same with your sister. We banished him from Thunderclan when we found out, and he then found his way into a new clan. They never left you or Blackheart, your mother loved you and your father..." she lost her words then laughed "well i guess your right with him, he was power hungry and he wanted to use you and your sister to make his way into leadership."

After a few moments of silence she added "If you like, I can tell you where she is."

My eyes widened as i met her steady gaze. "y-you know where she is?" I stammered.

She nodded "she lives just on the other side of Shadowclan territory, in an old twoleg den. Her name is Rose. i'll send you and escort when Darkpaw has been given his full name."

"Thank you Amberstar!" I said excitedly.

"Your welcome Riversong, and goodnight." she replied as she headed back up to her den.

I watched as Amberstar disappeared into her den and once I was sure she would not return, I walked out the gorse tunnel.

The forest was peaceful, only the sound of wind rustling through the trees reached my ears. The soft earth cushioned my paws as i let them carry me through the forest while i let my mind wander.

I caught a glimpse of the river in front of me and stopped, I had wandered al the way to the Riverclan border, no other cats were around though so i continued until I reached sunning rocks. their sun-warmed surfaces still retaining heat.

Settling down I let my eyes wander over the surrounding land. the scent of leaf-fall was faint but it was obvious that it would be here soon, even the trees leaves had already begun to change to slight shades of golden-brown.

"'A blossom shows beauty... yet thorns can easily break it's peace'" I muttered quietly to myself. "why cant Starclan just choose to make sense once and a while."

"Make sense of what?" a voice said. their scent drifted over to me, Riverclan! i span around to face them.

"What are you doing here!" i hissed, "this is not your territory!"

"I scented you over there, you crossed our border as well."

"I'm a medicine cat! its not like I'm hunting." besides I'm not in your territory now, am I?" I sneered.

"True... " He sighed "anyway, i thought I might be able to help you with your pondering."

"okay... wait! how do you know what I was doing?"

"You've been sitting here for ages and i saw you while you were pacing the Riverclan border."

"whats your name?" I asked cautiously

"Thorntail." he said as he sat next to me, facing the river. "No wonder our clans fight for this piece of territory," he sighed "the view of the river is amazing. So... what do you need help with?"

"i cant tell you what it is, you wouldn't understand it anyway." I sighed. it was obvious this cat was no going to leave me alone. "why were you patrolling the border so late by yourself?" i asked trying to leave the subject of my prophecy behind.

"What i do in Riverclan territory is my own business." he hissed quietly.

"Then what I do in Thunderclan is mine." I replied.

he looked over at me, "I'd never said you really had to tell me any of your clans business I was only wondering if i could help, after all, you did help my clan when Snareclaw died."

I returned his gaze "I did only what I was destined to do. as a medicine cat it is my duty." I snapped.

"As my duty as a warrior is to do what i think is right." a small splash in the river sounded a small ways away. "Did you hear that?" he hissed as he turned to face the sound.

"yes!" I replied as i got to my paws "I think someone fell in the river!"

"Come on then!" he said and started to run towards where we herd the splash.

The struggles became louder and soon i saw who it was, "Nettleblossom!" i gasped at the sight. her oddly colored eyes met mine for only a second before she fell under the water again. "we need to help her!" I hissed at Thorntail "she cant swim!"

Right after I said that Thorntail leaped into the river, emerging only seconds later with Nettleblossom hanging from the scruff in his jaws.

"Are you okay?" i asked as he lied her in front of me.

She nodded shakily and quietly stuttered "I-I was pushed in b-by someone..." then looking at Thorntail she added "... I didn't see who it was but they had Riverclan scent."

I looked at her for a few moments before replying "we need to get you back to camp... Can you walk?"

She nodded and stood shakily but nearly fell over. Thorntail quickly rushed closer to her and let her fall onto his shoulders to hold her up. Looking at me he said "ill help you carry her back to your camp."

Once back at camp I went directly to my den with Nettleblossom. Thorntail stayed with us the whole time, he had said that he needed to report to Amberstar.

Nettleblossom quickly fell asleep once I gave he poppy seeds to calm her shock.

Walking out of me den I heard Thorntail and Amberstar talking.

"...What were you doing on our territory?" Amberstar asked calmly

"I scented Thunderclan scent near the border, when I went to check it out i found one of your cats drowning in the river." Thorntail replied.

Amberstar looked concerned "you found Thunderclan scent on Riverclan territory?"

"...Yes..." the tom said uncertainly. "That's when I found Nettleblossom in the river, Riversong found me carrying her towards your camp shortly after."

My leader spotted me from were i had been listening in, flicking her tail she encouraged me to come over. "I believe that you heard what

he said." she said as i reached her "Is what he says true Riversong?"

I felt confused, no, Thorntail had been with me at the beginning, so, why had he lied about it. I could have said that i had called him over for something or another. but either way if I said anything different it would have been a lie. "Yes, he is telling the truth." I nodded.

"Thank you Riversong." Amberstar said as she turned again to face Thorntail. "Thunderclan Thanks you for returning our warrior and for saving her from the river."

"I would have done the same for any cat in danger." the brown tabby tom said as he straitened his back. "I trust that I can leave now before my clan misses me?"

"Dawn patrol leaves in a few moments, they can escort you to your territory." Amberstar replied as she stood up. and for the first time I realised that the sky had already started to turn to a pale purple color of blue, and small sounds of the waking warriors had begun to come from the warriors den.

"I'll be in my den if you need me." I said as I stood and yawned, "I need to check on Nettleblossom and catch up on some sleep, Darkpaw has learned enough of the basics so I shouldn't be needed unless he knows I'm needed." Amberstar nodded, and I swore I saw a flicker of unease in Thorntail's green eyes.

Chapter Nineteen: Blackheart

I gazed sleepily around the nursery, letting my mind wander as my kits slept on.

Before a few days ago I had never thought that when I had kits that they would be not of Thunderclan, but of Moonclan, as we had agreed to call ourselves. And though I was proud of my new clan, I felt a small longing for my old clan, not that many of them would accept me after I had chosen to leave them. Besides... Perhaps this clan would be better. After all, Starclan had given these cats the powers of the original four, and even Splashstar (or rather Splashkit now) had approved of my coming here.

Still.. Thoughts of what Riversong could be doing in Thunderclan clouded me head, like, when would Darkpaw receive his full name, and, how good of a deputy Echostream would be.

A quiet mew distracted me from my thoughts. "What's wrong?" I looked down to see Middnightkit gazing up at me with her bright blue eyes.

I lifted my paw and gently scratched my words in the ground. 'Nothing that you need to worry about.' she and the others had just opened their eyes yesterday and though they had learned to speak through listening, but since they were only a few days old they had picked up my language just as easily.

"Are you sure?" she mewed again causing Greykit and Snowkit to stir.

I gently brushed my tail against her muzzle, signaling for her to shush. But it was to late and the other two kits had woken up leaving Splashkit still asleep.

"Can we go outside?" Greykit asked, his navy blue eyes glinting in the morning light that filtered the cave.

I looked over at Splashkits sleeping body and thought. Then scratching in the ground I wrote 'When Splashkit wakes up.'

The three kits nodded but instead of all sitting and waiting Snowkit leaped onto Splashkit causeing her to wake up with a squeal.

"What was that for?" the kit hissed as she pushed Snowkit off of her. "I was having this great dream where we were battling Shadowclan!"

"Oh yea?" Greykit said tauntingly "What was your warrior name then if you were fighting?"

"I was Splashstar! Leader of Windclan!" Splashkit said loudly with pride.

"But your a Moonclan cat!" Snowkit gasped.

"How could you be leader of a clan you've never been in!" Middnightkit added.

Splashkit looked puzzled, "You're right." she said in confusion "It seemed so clear when I was dreaming though..."

It was then that I realized that she was having a flash back to one of her previous lives. Before the conversation could get worse I began to nudge the four of them out of the den.

"Ahh. " purred Tigerfang as he saw us come out of the nursery, a small fish resting at his paw. "So my little warriors have awakened at last!" then with his gaze catching mine he continued "I was just going to bring this to you! Snowstar wants the rest of us to practice using our powers so we can be better prepared for what Starclan has in store for us."

Since my kits had been born, our clan had been busy training their powers, and though I did not have any that I knew of, it felt good to see my mate having a good time training.

"Show us a trick!" Snowkit squealed as she pounced on her father "Light up one of the boulders and make it warm!"

Then after a few moments (and after being toppled over by the other three kits as well as Snowkit) Tigerfang nodded and gently brushed them off.

Eyeballing a flat rock that sat against the edge of the wall that surrounded us, he stood strait up and stuck his tail stiffly out behind him. He let his claw sink into the soft ground and opened his jaws, which sent a thin bolt of light into the rock, causing it to glow with unnatural warmth.

When the glowing died down the four kits leaped onto the stone and sprawled out on their bellies.

'Good trick!' I said with my tail. 'maybe you could put it to use this leaf-bare!'

Considering it was already late leaf-fall it would defiantly help us avoid green-cough and freezing to death.

"Tigerfang!" Pinefall, our deputy, called "Snowfire wants you and I to practice at the grass-clearing!"

The grass-clearing was a small enclosed aria of field that had been Windclan territory before it was given to us, it was surrounded on all sides by ferns and bushes that marked the Windclan Border.

Turnning to me Pinefall added "Careful when you let your kits play out here Blackheart, the water here may not be deep to us but it could drown a kit if one fell in!"

I nodded in response, though the tone he used towards me did prick my fur, the Shadowclan tom had not left his prickly attitude back in his old clan, though it seemed that he never used it when he spoke to Snowfire.

Tigerfang walked closer to me and purred as he brushed against my pelt "Don't worry Blackheart, I'll teach him a lesson during our practice."

I let out a silent purr as I rested my head on his shoulder for a moment.

He then slowly pulled away and followed Pinefall out of camp.

"Bye bye!" Splashkit called from were she was on the stone. Her words were quickly joined in by the other three.

Chapter Twenty: Riversong

"Riversong?" Amberstars voice sounded from outside my den.

"Yes?" I called

"We need to talk." she replied as she walked in.

"What about?" I asked as I walked over and sat in front of her

"About that Riverclan warrior. I don't trust that he just happened to be close by when Nettleblossom fell in the river." she said with a concerned voice. "Has she woken up yet? I need to ask her a few questions about how she fell in."

"Shes still asleep but I'll send Darkpaw to you when she wakes up."

I knew that Thorntail had been with me when Nettleblossom had fallen in.

"No need." Nettleblossom said from her nest as she sat up. "I'm up. So ask away."

Turning to Nettleblossom Amberstar began her questions "Did anyone actually push you in, or did you fall?" she asked firstly.

"I was pushed." Nettleblossom replied with a calm look in her eyes, "A tom from Riverclan did it."

"Who?" Amberstar gasped "Was it Thorntail?"

"No. It was a scrawny grey tom with the brightest yellow eyes I had ever seen!"

My chest clutched as I interrupted the investigation "It's likely that they were working together though. They might be trying to make us think that our two clans are allies and then attack."

Amberstar nodded "Why else would they have both been so near

the incident when it happened."

Then standing she said "I'll double patrols on that border, I'd like to keep an eye on them to make sure they don't try anything.

Before she could leave I walked up and whispered so Nettleblossom could not hear "I'd keep an eye on Leafstorm as well, after all he did join Windclans side of an argument just a few moons ago."

Amberstar twitched her ears and back a step away, she narrowed her eyes as if deep in thought and nodded. Once she left Nettleblossom took it to heart to question what had passed between us. "What was that about?" she asked, "looked as though trouble could be rising."

Looking at her I replied. "If only I could tell you how much, but the pain it would cause among the clan would not be worth it." Nettleblossom looked almost fearful for a moment before curling into her nest and falling asleep again.

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"Darkpaw." I said to my apprentice, "I think it's time you did a bit of battle training. It looks as though we may be expecting something that will require fighting skills from every cat in the clan."

He stopped sorting herbs for a moment and looked up. "I didn't know that medicine cats needed to fight as well."

"Every cat needs to know at least the basic fighting skills. Finish up those herbs and we'll head to training hollow." I said as I put the last of the herbs I had been sorting back in the store.

"Do you think Nettleblossom will be alright?" he asked as he put the last of the yarrow back in the rocks crevice.

"Shell be ready to go back the the warriors den by moon-rise." I said as I led him out of the den.

Once we were out of the camp I began to sprint for training hollow, forcing Darkpaw to try to keep up. When I got to the sandy hollow he was there only a few moments after and when he saw me he

dropped down and lay panting for a bit.

"Attack me." I said as I stood in the center of the clearing.

"Just like that?" he asked, his amber eyes confused.

"Go on then!" I teased "If I were a Shadowclan cat I'd be back with reinforcements by now!"

His eyes glistened in interest and Darkpaw launched himself at me, his paws hit my side and soon he stood on top of me, pinning me down. For a moment I feared that he would unsheathing his claws, for something in his eyes did not seem like his normal self.

"Good," I said as I slipped out from underneath him "Where did you learn that?"

"I think Speckledpaw taught me." he stuttered as if unsure of his new abilities.

"Well seeing as you know such an advanced move, I think that we can head back to camp." I responded. Even though I knew it would be better to teach him something else, something in his eyes made me ready to return to camp quickly.

Chapter Twenty-one: Blackheart

I watched as my four kits scattered themselves among the warm rocks that made our camp. I had hardly spoken to Tigerfang since the kits had hit three moons old. he and the others in our clan were always training. I often heard them muttering about what they thought the threat could be that they had been sent together to fight.

Suddenly a kits screech echoed across the new camp. I leaped to my paws and ruched to where the sound came from.

What i saw was Greykit splashing in the deep part of the river. my tail lashed in fear as I leaped into the river after her. though i had no idea how i was going to save her considering I could barely swim i knew that i had to save her quickly.

Finally the blurry color of her fur was visible in front of me, she had stopped struggling and was drifting downward, towards the bottom of the river, luckily the current wasn't as strong here as it was closer to the Riverclan border. If it had been she would have been gone my now.

I grabbed her gently in my jaws and began to rise slowly to the surface, the icy water breaching my forest made coat easily and making my skin underneath begin to go numb from its touch.

My jaws parted as I gasped silently for air the moment my muzzle broke surface, I felt some other cat grasp my scruff in their mouth and haul me to the warm bed of rocks where my other three kits were standing. I stood shakily and set Greykit down to be warmed by the rocks as i began to lick his pelt the wrong way, in hope of saving him from the freezing waters death grip.

"Are you ok?" I heard Snowstar ask kindly as she sat with my other kits, trying to sooth them.

'im fine.' I said with my tail as i tried to warm my kits cold body. 'thank you for saving me.'

"Blackheart?" I heard Foxheart ask as she walked over, apparently she had come with Snowstar. "let me check Greykit. I'll need to take him to my den."

I nodded and let her come closer to my kit and I looked at Snowstar 'where is Tigerfang?' I asked

she looked down at her paws as she replied "hes training with Silversong and Pinefall, I was hunting and i saw you in the water just as I had come back with the prey for you and Foxheart."

My heart thudded painfully as I looked back at my kit. Foxheart had opened his mouth and gently pressed his chest, letting water come out but the kit just barely moved, his chest hardly moving in his struggle to breath.

'Please,' I prayed to Starclan '*don't take her from me..'*

Then i slowly gathered Middnightkit, Snowkit, and Splashkit and led them to the nursery.

It had been so long since Greykit had fallen into the water,Foxheart had told be that my other kits needed me yet i felt as i had left a part of my heart in the medicine den.

Even as the moon had begun to rise Tigerfang was had still not returned and Snowstar had insisted that he needed his training and that he would be back before i knew it.

The three kits had seemed in shock for the most part, though Splashkit was the worst.

I had a feeling that she knew something, she was the reincarnation of Splashstar after all. But before i could confront her she came to me instead.

" I'm sorry Blackheart." she said with a sob at the back of her throat.

'For what?' I scratched on the den floor

"I knew that he was going to die and I didn't tell you." she sobbed quietly

'Hes not dead Splashkit.' I replied as I nudged her fur 'hes just in Foxhearts den' in my mind I shared her worries that Greykit might have died while I was away.

"No, shes dead, Starclan told me so in a dream that one of our clan-mates would die today."

I was about to reply as Foxheart entered the den, a fallen look on her face. "Blackheart..." she started "I need to talk to you in my den."

My heart thudded in fear but i followed the she-cat to her den just the same.

Chapter Twenty-two: Riversong

Something was wrong Darkpaws training was going great, soon he would be a full medicine cat; but I could tell that something was bothering him. One night he had left the camp and returned with several wounds, he had said that he got stuck in some brambles but I could tell from a distance they were claw wounds.

Also, something was happening else where in the forest, though it had been some moon since my prophecies neither of them had yet shown themselves in anymore then the same vision repeated each night, and because of this I had not had any actual sleep in moons, and though I feared each dream and the message it brought, I always waited eagerly for each night, hoping that I would learn more each time by noticing something i had perhaps missed the night before.

Amberstar had notice my weakness and always asked what was wrong, I couldn't tell her, not after the what happened with Thorntail. So I always would shrug in response to each of her questions and tell her that i was just having poor sleep.

Though it was only just now dawn I knew that tonight was half moon and that it might be time for Darkpaw to get his full name. I'd wanted to ask Starclan what if they thought he was ready but they never spoke of anything other then the omens. Perhaps, I could ask them now. I wondered as I sat looking at the sunlight filtering through the entrance of the den. After all, I wouldn't be needed as early as the warriors. So I laid myself back into my nest gently.

---bare dark trees surrounded me, this was not Starclans' hunting grounds. my eyes searched the dark fores for any of the starry cats who had perhaps brought me here for a reason, in my heart I felt that only my ancestors would know this.

"Riversong..." a voice whispered. so I followed where I thought it had come from.

I reached a wall of dead brambles, their dry brown thorns makeing it impossible to pass through. But just in front of me there was a small opening, just big enough to peak through.

"The fox has left this world." a dark voice purred, its presents was someone i thought i knew but his pelt was covered in shadows cast by the dark tree above him. "we have been left ungaurded."

A second cat sat across from him and he was someone that I knew, his ugly yellow-green eyes piercing through the darkness. It was Badgersoul.

"She could barely stop us before, I had slipped past her easily, and I wouldn't be back here if Whitestar hadn't gotten himself killed-" he snapped but was cut off.

"YOU got your host killed not him." the other tom snarled, his bright blue eye suddenly glowing with anger as they reflected the dim light"

I felt myself shiver slightly as i felt i had heard enough. I began to turn when my pelt snagged the brambles I had been looking through. I let out a quiet gasp as the thorns dug into my pelt like claws.

"Shh!" the tom hissed to Badgersoul. As I felt his burning eye melt through the brambles into my pelt.

"Badgersoul," he said quietly, "we have a visitor, wait here while i go fetch her." then all was quite, my heart pounded so loudly that i felt that he would hear it too. I begged for myself to wake up but all the same i was in the dark-forest held down by the claw like brambles.

"Please!" I begged when I herd his paw-steps grow nearer "I wont tell anyone what a heard!"

Suddenly the paw-steps stopped, the blood pounded in my ears. "What are you doing here!" the tom snarled, I closed my eyes and shivered the tom still hid himself from me but his voice echoed everywhere.

"I don't know! I just woke up here!" i said trying to steady my voice as I opened my eyes again; nearly jumping back when i found he was just a tail length away, towering above me.

His eyes suddenly lost their angry glow as he spoke again "You are Riversong aren't you?"

"y-yes" I sputtered

"Come with me." he grunted as he began to tur away.

"I cant..." I replied as I tried to tugg at the thorns

He turned and glared at me but walked back slashed the thorns away with his claws. "now follow."

I followed as he lead me back to where he had been with Badgersoul when i had been watching them.

"I see you caught the intruder." Badgersoul grunted as we padded up. My fur spiked as we passed him, the larger tom forcing me to sit in between him and the wall with Bagersoul at his side.

"What did you hear!" he snarled. my eyes glistened with fear as I told him all that I had heard. his claws were extremely long and his pelt as black as night, his pelt was covered in scars and his long tail had a crook in it at the end, as if he had broken it while still alive.

"We should kill her!" Bagersoul snarled when I finished.

"But this is a dream!" I gasped

The tom looked at me as he snickered his reply "Any wounds that you receive here will carry on with you when you awaken. If you die here you are dead in the living world as well." he paused and turned to Badgersoul and calmly said "We wont kill her... we have enough to keep her quiet.

A knot tightened in my throat. "What do you mean?" I gasped.

He looked back at me and grinned as he stepped closer until he was nose to nose with me. "Say or try anything and we will not only kill

you, but Darkpaw as well."

"You have him?!"

"Every time he closes his eyes." Badgersoul growled

"And just in case you think we cant harm you..." the black tom placed his needle sharp claws on my cheek "think again." he finished as he slashed his claws across my face. Blood began flowing relentlessly through the new wound. "A scar to remember me by." the tom snarled. "And another surprise will be there for you when you awaken.

Then just as he and Badgersoul stood to leave her grunted with a small smirk on his scared face. "and in case you were wondering, I'm your fathers brother, Scarpelt."---

My eyes flashed open and pain filled my face as i realized blood was still pouring from the wound, i had to cover it before another cat saw!

rushing into the herb storage I grabbed a large amount of cobwebs and began pushing them on my face, the wound had crossed all the way across my face, from cheek to cheek. it would be hard to hide but I had to try!

Suddenly a soft pelt brushed against mine and murmured, "it is time for the Dark to join the Stars, for It is the only way to save it..." then the pelt disappeared, leaving behind only a slight trace of scent.

I realized that my wound had stopped herting and i removed the cobwebs. only a scar remained now. And i realized tht it was time for Darkpaw to have his name.

Chapter Twenty-Three: Blackheart

My heart pounded as I rushed into the medicine den, and it almost stopped when I saw what Foxheart brought me here for...

My kit was laying in the nest that Foxheart had made for her, her fur was now dry but now not only did she look as though she had drown but claw-marks also covered her flank and she was twitching in her sleep; her breath coming in sharp gasps as blood began to come out of the wounds.

"I don't know what happened..." Foxheart mewed "I finally got her out of shock and she had just fallen asleep. a few moments after she had calmed down the wounds just started appearing! every time i get one to stop bleeding another appears, shes loosing to much blood and I don't think shes going to make it..."

I had no idea how this could have happened, was it Starclan saying that Greykit was not meant to be born? No, Starclan would never kill a kit out of cold blood. But Badgersoul would, he had been there when they had been born, and he had likely been watching them ever since.

I padded over to Greykit, his markings that were so much like Tigerfangs now covered in blood as it gushed from any wounds, only a few wounds seemed to be patched up, showing that Foxheart had tried to save him.

Right now the only thing I wanted more than anything was to speak to my kit, with voice, not my tail. So that he could hear me through his dreams and perhaps wake up. But instead all i could do was rap my tail around him and hold him tightly, in hope to make him comfortable in his final moments.

If you can feel my presents... please Greykit,try to wake up...

The small toms twitching slowed to a stop though his breathing stayed slow and raspy. "Ma-ma?" he managed to cry in pain quietly.

I snuggled closer trying to calm him.. i knew he was dying.

"-he said to watch the other kits carefully..." he murmured "... that if the cat speaks another will die-" he broke off and whimpered in pain as a new wound appeared on his pelt, "-please don't leave me! he said hes going to take me away!"

I rested my head on his gently trying to assure him that I would stay. I knew that it was Badgersoul speaking to my kit, killing him in his half consciousness. One day I would get my revenge... I let my eyes reach Foxheart, searching her face for something, but her eyes were staring into the distance as if seeing someone i could not.

Then she seamed to return to her body,
"It's ok Blackheart. Starclan wont let him be taken to the dark-forest. When he dies they will be the ones to take him with them."

I could feel my kits breathing slow more, and his eyes flickered open "wheres Tigerfang?" he whimpered "I want to say bye.."

A tear dripped off my mussel onto the cave floor. I wanted to tell him that I didn't know where his father was, that he would be here soon. But he seamed to understand. as he replied quietly.

"Tell him I said goodbye." he whimpered just as his body stilled.

I pulled his body closer, though i knew that in Starclan he would no longer be in pain or in Badgersouls reach i still felt like i was closer to death then the night I lost my voice. I felt myself zoning out, the caves walls becoming a blur. but as a scent reached my nose I was snapped back to life, i listened to his voice from where he was across the camp.

"Wheres Snowstar." he said calmly to Pinefall what apparently arrived just before him.

"Shes in her den, its late so shes probably sleeping."
was Pinefalls reply

"Then Blackhearts probably sleeping too.." he yawned " I think ill catch some sleep."

I felt anger rising into me, was that all he would do? Our son just died! and he was going to sleep! My heart ached as I longed to confront him but I did not want to leave my sons body.

"Blackheart?" Foxheart murmured as she approached me "Greykit is dead, even if his body is here he will be with you. And we need to bring him out so we can start
the vigil and Snowstar can announce his death.

I stood with anger rising from my pelt and began to walk towards where I heard Tigerfangs voice. He was walking toward the warriors cave but stopped and turned around when he heard me coming.

"Oh! your awake!" he purred as he walked towards me "where are the kits?"

My tail twitched with anger at his ignorance, could he not see the blood beginning to dry on my pelt?

'Where were you!' I said with my twitching tail. 'isnt there supposed to be at least one warrior in camp?'

"Snowstar sent us to train." he replied shocked by my anger. "What happened while we where gone?"

I force myself to keep from lashing at his face with my claws while I replied. 'Greykit is dead! And you weren't even there to say good bye! he asked for you, but I couldn't just leave him there alone!'

"What!" he gasped "where is he?"

'In Foxhearts den, not that you would care, you hardly ever see him anymore, I'm surprised he remembered your name when he died!'

Tigerfang flinched a my words and his tail drooped "I wanted to see them Blackheart, its just that with the prophecy and all-"

'what? you forgot about them? about me?' i lashed 'you thought that

your little powers where more important then our kits?!'

"I did it for the you and the kits!" he snarled as he lost his temper "i thought you would understand all that! and they aren't even my kits! They are Whitestars!"

My tail drooped as i let him continue, he was right, but if he couldn't understand that they didn't know that, and that our love meant they where his to, that meant that we weren't meant to be together; and that I didn't belong here.'Fine' i replied when he stopped yowling 'since you don't love them, or me, any more ill just have to take them and leave. Its clear i was never meant to be in this clan anyway, i cant even help with anything and the only one who treats me like a warrior is Foxheart.'

My eyes searched his expression as he replied "I never said I didn't love you.." he sighed "I'm just tired.. and I don't want you or the kits to leave."

In my anger I ranted on 'Its too late now Tigerfang, I'm leaving this clan! I'm no use to it anyway. And if all you think these kits are is that they are Whitestars kits then you never meant it when you said that we could be mates, when you told me you would protect us from him and anyone else trying to harm us. well guess what? it was their *father* who killed Greykit! and you were *not* there to protect him!' i knew i was being unreasonable, and that Tigerfang could not have stopped it even with his powers but still, he had hardly cared that Greykit was dead anyway. 'I'm going to leave with my kits tonight!, and I'm taking Greykits body with me, I will not have him buried on the soil of the territory owned by the cat who killed him!'

"This isn't Windclan territory Blackheart!" Tigerfang grunted "Whitestar gave it to us when he was leader, and its not Riverclans, or Thunderclans, its our clans."

'Not mine any more, and I bet that the other clans will take it back the moment the prophecy is over! and then my kit will be left in territory handed you to that murderer!'

I turned before he could reply again and lashed my tail in a last

goodbye. 'Goodbye Tigerfang, we cannot be mates anymore if you don't love me enough to love my kits. I'm leaving this clan for good you may as well tell Snowstar for me because i wont wait another moment for you to tell me what to do.' and with that i returned to the medicine cat den and looked at Foxheart, who had seemed know what had happened.

Greykits body had been washed and she had it moved to a clean nest but before I could explain to her I was taking him with me as I left she spoke. "Ill carry him for you Blackheart, I watched you and Tigerfang and I'm not going to stop you from leaving. After you saved me from Whitestars rein in Windclan I could not pay you enough for your kindness. And if I wasn't this clans medicine cat I would probably come with you."

I nodded and the two of us gathered my other kits and began to lead them back into Thunderclan territory... where they had belonged since their kitting.

Chapter Twenty-Four: Riversong

Both happiness and fear filled my mind as I listened to the other medicine cats chant Darkpaws new name, Darkflame. Memories of my dream hadn't left my mind, of what the two dark forest cats had said they would do if I said anything, I was sure that he meant telling Starclan as well.. and I was still nervous about meeting with them tonight; would they remind me of the other two prophecies or would one of their warriors speak to me about what I had heard.

I was snapped out of my thought the moonstones grayish color flashed into life as the moons light filled the cavern.

"Darkflame, you may now lead us in entering Starclans world for the first time as a full medicine cat." I forced myself to say calmly.

I watched as he then slowly approached the star-filled Moonstone and laid himself in front of it with his nose touching. We all followed once we saw that his breathing had slowed to deep sleeping breaths.

My eyes snapped open the moment that I felt lush forest grass beneath my paws instead of the cold Mother-mouths floor. A cream colored tabby she-cat sat in front of me, her autumn brown eyes glittering with starlight; same as the moonstone.

"I have come to apologize Riversong, for the number of prophecies we have sent to your clan. You have managed them well for such a young cat and we are proud to have your apprentice receive his full name." she said with a soothing voice.

"Are you here to tell me what they mean?" I asked feeling like I knew the answer.

"I'm afraid they are for you and Darkflame to find out..."

"Then why are you here?"

"I'm afraid you must leave Thunderclan for a while."

"WHAT?" I gasped "I can't leave them! I've only just regained the respect they had for me! I'll never be trusted as a medicine cat again!"

"Your destiny lies far from this territory Riversong..." she murmured her honey-like scent filling the forest "You have a hard journey ahead of you, but you cannot stay in Thunderclan, if you do you will cause great pain to your clan. Worse then the pains you will have if they choose not to trust you if you return."

"But my clan needs me!" I hissed trying to convince not only her but myself as well.

"For the time you are gone Darkflame will watch the clan. These are going to be hard times, and only if you leave will they be able to survive."

"But how long will I be gone? Where will I go?" my shoulders began to slump as I realized I had to do what the she-cat said.

"You will know, we will guide you every paw-step of the way. There is a place for you among the mountains, the cats there know you are coming and they will welcome you."

I looked into her starry eyes as tears clouded my vision. "But what about Blackheart and my mother? Will I never get to see them?"

"You will upon your return. But you must leave now and let Darkflame return alone." the she-cat then stood "When you awake they will still be sleeping, you must leave before they see you."

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My eyes flickered open to the darkened cavern of the moonstone, the other cats were still asleep, just as the she-cat had told me. So I began to feel my way out of the cave. When the fresh night air

filled my mouth and I had reached the entrance of mother-mouth I began to follow the path up the slope, figuring that since the she-cat had mentioned the mountains I should go up rather then down.

Once at the top of the hill I looked ahead of me and how far I had to go, it turned out that the mountains did not connect to the moonstones hill, instead they where far in the distance, barely visible. I gulped as I saw the territories I was going to have to cross, large masses of two-leg territory stretched ahead, along with large fields of grass and other things surrounded by shining borders.

The sound of voices sounded from the bottom of the hill near the mother-mouth. So I quickly crouched and listened.

"I'm sure she just returned to camp, perhaps Starclan sent her a message telling her to." was what Darkflame said reassuringly to the other clan cats.

"I suppose so..." was the Echowhispers reply.

"I think it's best we all return to our clans." Darkwhisker replied, the she-cats voice sounded darker then usual, it seemed something might be happening in Shadowclan that had change the she-cat, but with the new clans arrival Shadowclans threat had been slightly forgotten by everyone.

I stood and began to walk the other way before I changed my mind and returned to my clan against Starclans wishes.

Now my journey had truly begun.

Chapter Twenty-five: Blackheart

My paws had begun to drag on the forest floor, this was the second strait night I had been awake, first had been the night that Greykit had been wounded and then there was now.

I was glad to finally be in Thunderclan territory again. And though I was nearly asleep on my paws and Tigerfangs scorn was still clawing at my ears; I was actually beginning to feel the relief of returning home, my sister was here, and my history was here... Though my previous mate was not.

"Are we there yet?" Midnightkit yawned from where she walked in-between Foxfur and I.

'Nearly' I said with my tail, hoping she saw what I said.

Snowkit was snoring softly from my jaws as I carried her and Splashkit yawned as she walked side by side with her sister. And just as Midnightkit seamed about to make another complaint Flashpelts black tabby fur came in sight from where she was standing guard at the camps entrance.

"Flashpelt. Foxfur said as she set down Greykits body beside me and walked up to the warrior. "We need to speak to Amberstar." her voice was sturdy but her eyes grave.

"Go on in." Flashpelt replied as she glanced at the kits body with sadness "You are both welcome in Thunderclans camp. Are Tigerfang or Snowstar with you?" she asked.

"No, I'm sure Amberstar will tell you after we speak to her." Foxfur assured as she picked up the kits body and began to enter the camp.

Looking at Flashpelt I nodded a greeting and followed the other she-cat with my living kits just ahead.

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"So you say you would like to join our clan again?" Amberstar asked calmly as I sat in her den with her.

I nodded and began to flick my tail in the movements I used to mock words letting Foxfur speak them out-loud for me.

"All the cats in the new clan do not truly accept me as a clan mate, even Tigerfang treats the kits and I as outsiders."

Amberstar nodded, "You are welcome here," then she turned to Foxfur "Are you staying as well?"

"No, I must return to my new clan as their medicine cat." she dipped her head politely "Riversong can teach you her ways of speaking."

Amberstar closed her eyes and sighed "I'm afraid not.."

My pelt pricked as I flicked my tail asking why.

"What happened to Riversong?" Foxfur asked her eyes dark with sadness.

"We don't think she's dead." The leader started "But she didn't return from moonstone with Darkflame."

Darkflame? So Darkpaw has become full medicine cat? My pelt pricked as I thought of what happened. Riversong might have left due to the fact that she felt alone in the clan...

"I'm sure she will return, but without her we won't understand Blackheart..."

At this Foxfur nodded "I will teach you for now, but after two days I must return to my clan."

"Has your clan yet to come up with a name?" Amberstar asked.

"Yes, we are now Moonclan, named after the thing which lives closest to the stars since we have all been chosen by them." Foxfur said with pride filling her tone, though when she finished sadness

filled her eyes once more as she turned to look outside the den. "And Amberstar, we have another reason for why Blackheart is re-joining Thunderclan."

"Yes?"

"Greykit- one of Blackhearts kits- died the other night. We believe it has to do with the darkforest..."

Amberstars eyes darkened "Leafstorm told be about Whitestar, does this have to do with him?"

"It might, I'll ask Starclan and I think you should as well."

Amberstar nodded "I will." then turning to me again she said "I'm sorry for the loss of your kit. I will announce your arrival to the clan and as soon as that is over I will start to learn your language. It will be mandatory that the warriors and apprentices do as well."

I nodded and followed as we all began to leave the den. Nudging my kits awake so they would follow as well.

Chapter Twenty-Six: Riversong

Nothing but forest surrounded me, the sunlight sparkling through the canopy of leaves above me. Though this territory was unfamiliar I felt more at home than I had been since I left mothermouth.

It had only been one night since I left yet my paws where tired and acing, and my heart was feeling the tug for me to return to my clan.

It was wrong for me to be so far away when Starclan had told of a darkness coming soon.

Soon I felt the urge to stop and rest, the greenleaf sun cause the forest to be hot, and even the soft forest floor was scorching my paws.

I quickly found a bush that provided shade from the sun and settled under it's lush leaves.

My eyes flickered open, I had not realized that I had fallen asleep yet now the sun was nearly set. I let out a yawn feeling hunger begin to claw at my stomach.

As I walked out of my temporary den I smelt the air. The scent of Mouse was strong nearby so I began my hunt.

Though I knew that I had been trained to hunt herbs, not prey, I knew that my survival depended on my hunting skills.

The mouse was now directly in front of me, it's attention focused on a small seed it had found as it attempted to breach it's shell.

Flexing my claws I leapt only to stumble as a loud yowl sounded behind me.

"What are you doing here!"

"I was trying to hunt.." I muttered as I carefully picked myself off the ground testing each paw before standing.

"That's not your prey!" the toms voice hissed.

My eyes narrowed to slits as I retorted "If this is your territory then you should mark your territory." I turned around to face the other cat.

His eyes were brown and his dark brown tabby pelt covered sturdy muscles. "What are you doing here?" he repeated, with anger at my ignorance glinting in his eyes.

"I'm just passing through, I though no cats owned this land so I stopped to hunt."

He shook his head "You can't hunt here, no cat can."

"Why not?" I asked

"This territory is owned by foxes." he grunted. "even a mew would know that!"

I felt confused at what 'Mew' meant but I figured it didn't matter. "I didn't scent any when I entered the forest!" I snapped "and I've never been here before so how would I know!"

"What ever." the Tom sighed, "you better come with me though, I'll take you to the edge of their territory."

I began to follow him out of the forest but stopped as a fresh scent crossed my path.

"Stop!" I hissed quietly "There's a fox near by!"

The Tom looked over his shoulders at me and sniffed the air. And as the fur along his back began to prick he nodes and walked to my side. "It's only a Mew." he murmured "Should be easy to fight off, but once it's gone we will have to make a break for it before the Long-Fangs come."

I felt further away from home each time I heard him say a word I didn't understand yet I knew I had to use my small amount of battle skills to help him fight it off.

"There he is." the Tom muttered as the orange bushy tail came into view, "Attack on my lead."

I turned and looked at him closely. His brown eyes battle hungry and his claws sheathing into the soft forest floor.

The my heart pounded as the world seamed to freeze, making a moment seam like moons.

In that moment by eyes locked with the loners, and a voice whispered in my ear "...Riversong, no matter how far from home you are... You are still protected by Starclan... We will always fight with you..."

When the whisper was gone the Tom tore his eyes from mind and lurched forward and only then did time return to full speed.

I surged forward following his lead as he had said, letting my claws meet the young foxes pelt. With the protection of Starclan I knew I would win this battle.

Chapter Twenty-Seven: Blackheart

The moon had risen three time since I had rejoined Thunderclan. And Foxfur was going to be leaving today since it was the full moon, she was going to come with us to the gathering and leave to her clan when the gathering was over.

Not only was today the full moon, it was also the day my kits would be receiving their mentors and apprentice names.

Riversong has still not yet returned though, and Amberstar was begining to fear the other clans might find it as a sign of weakness that we had one of our medicine-cats gone and one cat who had returned.

It was clear that though I had left due to Starclan and my mate I was not yet welcomed completely by Thunderclan, and most cats had not been thrilled about learning to understand my language; though Amberstar had told them it could be a battle strategy and that had helped them be slightly more welcoming to the language.

I Stretched as I stood from my nest and padded out of the nursery, my kits were already scampering around the clearing, most of them seamed to have gotten over Greykits death; they had realized that he was in Starclan and that he would still always be with them. Including today, at their apprentice ceremony.

The only kit not yet over it was Splashkit. I felt bad for her... She still blamed herself for Greykits death though not even she could stop a darkforest cat as a kit, as a fox sure, but not as a kit.

Soon they realized I was waiting and the three of them walked over. My heart ached as I realized Greykit should be here to become Greypaw and to become a warriors apprentice, and Tigerfang should still be Thunderclans deputy, without his strange lightning powers and his quick temper.

'time to wash up before your ceremony!' I said with my tail with a forced smile as I grabed Snowkit and began to fiercely lick her, trying to clean every scrap of dust and moss off before the ceremony.

I did the same for each kit, holding the firmly as they struggled to get away. Though my heart still felt as though claws had sliced it open and left it, the dark mood was slowly lifting itself from the hearts of my kits, even if it meant I had to live with it for ever.

"let all cats old enough to catch their own prey join here beneath highrock for clan meeting!" Amberstars call echoed through the clearing.

'come on!' I said to my kits as I began nudging them towards the clearing beneath the highrock.

As other cats gathered I watched, seeing that many cats were still unsure about my return and about my loyalty. The only cats other then Amberstar that seamed to trust me fully were Darkflame, Foxfur and Nettleblossom. Though I had only just met the she-cat we had become close friends and I was glad that she had joined the clan.

Once every cat had gathered Amberstar began. "Today is the day we witness three kits receive their mentors and apprentice names, though I fear that their brother Greykit is not here to join them, I believe his sprite is here to watch his siblings reach their sixth moon. Midnightkit, Snowkit, and Splashkit you have each reached the age of six moons, and it is time for you to be apprenticed. From this day on, until you receive your warrior names, you will be known as Midnightpaw, Snowpaw and Splashpaw." Amberstar paused as she looked each newly named apprentice in the eye, as if remembering when she had received this same ceremony. "Midnightpaw," she purred as her gaze stopped on the black she-cat "Your mentor will be Leafstorm. "

Amberstars eyes glanced that the tabby tom "Leafstorm please come here."

As Leafstorm stood infront of his leader I watched as he dipped his

head in respect. Though I had not trusted the warrior at all since he had sided with Whitestar I hoped he would stay loyal to Thunderclan despite his pryer betrayal.

"Leafstorm, you are ready to take on another apprentice. Though you have had a hard time understanding the warrior code you have also shown yourself a strong warrior. You will be the mentor of Midnightpaw, and I expect you to pass on all of your experience to her.

As the ceremony continued Splashpaw received Leopardfang and Snowpaw received Flashpelt.

For a moment my saddness was forgotten and my fear of Leafstorm was put aside and it seemed that the clan had decided to be glad for my kits as well as the cheered my kits new names. My heart pounded as I longed to join in, though I knew they would understand.

As cats began to leave Amberstar continued "I still have one other ceremony to do!"

She waited for the clan to settle down again. "There are two apprentices ready to be made warriors! Goldenpaw, Speckledpaw, please step forward."

I looked at the two apprentices, Speckledpaw stepped forward with a suppressed look on her face at the same time as Goldenpaw walked up.

Darkflame was watching his sister with pride from where he was sitting near the medicine-cat den.

"I, Amberstar, leader of Thunderclan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on these apprentices. They have trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend them to you as warriors in their turn.

Goldenpaw, you have waited a long time for this name, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?"

Goldenpaw looked at Amberstar with excitement burning in her eyes as she replied "I do."

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Goldenpaw, from this moment you will be known as Goldenthorn. StarClan honors your kindness and loyalty, as we welcome you as a full warrior of Thunderclan.

Speckledpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?"

"I do."

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Speckledpaw, from this moment you will be known as Speckledpool. StarClan honors your patience, and we welcome you as a full warrior of Thunderclan."

Amberstar waited patiently as the clan called their names and the two newly named warriors licked her shoulders. "Cats of Thunderclan my final bit for this meeting is to announce those coming to tonights gathering. "Flashpelt, Echostream, Darkflame, Nettleblossom, Blackheart Mignightpaw, Snowpaw, Splashpaw, and Leopardfang. That is all please carry on with the clan duties."

With that Amberstar walked into her den.

My ears twitched as I heard Leafstorm mutter as Amberstar entered her den. "How can we trust her?" he grunted to a warrior near him "She left us for a bunch of loners?"

The warrior sitting next to him let out a low growl as a reply to him "It's not just her either, all cats who are her kin leave the clan eventually, make sure your apprentice does not make the same mistake they all have."

I could feel the fur along my back rise as I recognized the voice, though I could not put a name to it I knew that it was not the voice of any warrior of my clan, nor was it Badgersoul as I had feared at first.

Spinning around to see the strange, but the only cat left in the

clearing was Leafstorm himself with Midnightkit. I could feel fear well within me as I hoped that what the strange cat had said did not make my kit fall into the same trap that Leafstorm had.

It felt like I was in a distant memory as I walked among cats from other clans, the gathering had not yet begun and yet Riverclan and Moonclan had already arrived just before us.

Foxfur had already left to join her clan and I was using a group of Riverclan cats to hide from Tigerfang who was chatting with a few other Riverclan and Thunderclan cats on the other side of the clearing.

This felt strange being here when even my clanmates seamed like strangers to me.

Soon I found a place to sit near the very edge of the clearing with no other cats near me.

But as soon as i had thought that i felt a pelt brush my side as a cat sat next to me.

"Blackheart..." Tigerfang murmured as he tried to catch my eyes.

I wanted to yowl at him, to spit in his face for the things he had saif to me but all i could do was scratch my words into the clearings dirt.

'Go Away Tigerfang.'

"How are you going to make me?" he play hissed.

I quickly stood as anger poured off of my in fumes 'TIGERFANG!' I lashed with my tail 'Dont make this seam like its my fault I left Moonclan! and it wasnt Greykits death either! It was you! YOU made me leave Thunderclan and YOU made me leave Moonclan!'

Tigerfang blinked with supprise at my anger. "Im sorry i made you feel unwanted Blackheart, I was just tired from all the training."

'That is no answer for what you said! no tired father ignored the fact that his kit just dided just because the kit wasnt his own blood!'

"I said i was sorry for that Blackheart!"

'Sorry catches no prey Tigerfang! and it most certainly does not heal wounds!'

"Please Blackheart!" Tigerfang's tail was now twitching "I still love you! I understand how you feel but Ive had to put up with learning your new way of speaking, I've put up with haveing to move to a new clan, and I have have tried to put aside that your kits are not mine! But the whole of Starclan does not only watch over you!"

At that my heart cracked and my tail drooped. How could a cat still love me after he said such things about me?

Tigerfang did not know how I felt at all, I understood that Starclan did not only watch me. But Tigerfang did not understand what I had to be put through...

I had by voice ripped away from me, I had to learn a new way of speaking, I had been raped, I had to put up with a prophecy hanging over my head, I had to give birth, I had to put up with my own clan not trusting me, My sister had leaft me, My parents ahd leaft me, I had to stand there and do nothing as my kit died in my own paws, and I had to take care of my remaining kits without a mate to help me raise them.Tigerfang did NOT know how I felt.

I let my eyes meet his, both of us had eyes full of tears but Tigerfangs eyes had somehow changed from when I had first taken him as a mate, now they held power. Power that had changed his emotions, they held anger and even hate, and for the first time ever I feared those eyes and their power.

As I slowly rose my tail I replied ' You are not the cat i once loved... perhaps his is still in there hidden under the power you now hold, but the cat i see in my mates body right now is more like Badgersoul then Tigerfang...' I watched as Tigerfang flinched when I mentioned Badgersoul. and I remembered the last moment we had both seen him alive.

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"Badgersoul... I dont love you, I never did." I said quietly as I looked into his yellow-green eyes, filled with anger and hatred.

"I dont care if you love me!" he hissed "You will be mine." The toms fur was pricked as he glared at me.

We had known each other since kit-hood, his mother had kitted at the same time as mine had, and we hade always been friends. But ever since he had been apprenticed I had watched as he slowly changed.

"I wont be with you Badgersoul!" I hissed "Why cant you understand that! I love Tigerfang"

"Tigerfang isn't worthy of your love!" he hissed as he sank his claws into the soil "I'll kill him if i have to!"

I could feel Tigerfangs fur brushing against my side as he came to my defence "Badgersoul, you can't do this! we are your clanmates and its against the warrior code!"

"Starclan cannot harm me! And I have no intent of joining when I die!" Badgersoul snarled then turning to me he growled "Blackpaw, if you don't choose me by the time you become a warrior you WILL pay, if not the life of Tigerfang it will be somthing worse then that.

Tigerfang stepped forward and snarled his reply "Badgersoul, think about what youre doing! If Amber

star knew what you where doing you would be exiled!"

"You think I care about that any more! Even my brother doesnt know me anymore!" Then Badgersoul stood with his back arched "Blackpaw, your ceremony is tommorow, if you dont choose correctly I will kill you infront of the entire clan."

My eye began to water as I remembered what he had been like as an apprentice, much nicer, only the other day he had become a warrior and already he had become power hungrey and ready to kill. I had no idea why he only wanted me. "Why me though

Badgersoul?" I managed to ask befor he turned to leave"

Badgersouls eyes met mine for a moment then he sighed as a glimmer of remembrance entered his eyes. "I love you Blackpaw, and I thought that you felt the same for me... " then as anger filled his eyes again "But you have decided to leave me when I have done nothing to desearve anything other then you." and with that he turned and fled towards the camp.

I sat infront of the entire clan now, as they called out my new name, Blackheart. and just as the clan finished chanting my name i watched as Badgersoul aproched me.

"So Blackheart, your time is up so who do you choose?"

I lifted my head as my heart pounded in my chest all the cats in the clearing watched, Leafstorm especially, I knew that in his mind he was hoping I would choose his brother, though I was sure that he did not know what would happen if I did not choose him.

"Badgersoul..." I sighed as my eyes met his, "I cannot choose you. My heart lies with Tigerheart."

While several cats in the clearing murmured in agreement I watched as Badgersouls eyes went from hope and love, to sadness and hatred.

"Fine!" he hissed as darkness clouded his yellow-green eyes. "If I can't have you the no cat will!" and with that he leapt forward, his claws just barely touching my pelt as I dodged.

Now he stood on the opposite side of the clearing as dark clouds began to cover the sky.

"Badgersoul!" the clan deputy, Amberstar, yowled as she leapt from where she had been sitting. "What are you doing!"

Badgersoul turned to his clan leader with his eyes filled with madness. "If she can't love me then I can't let her love anyone else!" he hissed darkly as he leapt at me again.

Before I could dodge again he landed on my back with his claws digging into my skin.

"Don't worry my sweet..." Badgersoul hissed as he dug his claws deeper "M sure Starclan will welcome you into it's ranks quiet happily."

I let my body loosen as he prepared to give the death blow, hopping that he would loosen his grip but he only tightened it and hissed "That doesn't work on me, I already know all your tricks!"

"Think that you know all my tricks Badgersoul?" I grunted as I tightened my muscles and sprang off the ground, his larger weight forcing him to slip off as I landed on top of him, digging my claws in to hold him down. "Think again."

"Is that why you stopped training with me?" he hissed. "To learn all of his moves?"

"Actually," I murmured into his ear "I just never told you all of mine."

I felt my claws leave his flanks as I felt sorry for him, though I used my weight to hold him down.

"When I let you go you must leave." I grunted.

"And who made you leader?" He hissed.

Amberstar then spoke up. "You know she's right." Amberstar hissed "You have tried to kill your Clanmate, you are no longer a member of Thunderclan."

When Amberstar finished speaking I let go of Badgersoul.

He turned to leave with his tail dragging in the dirt. I felt sorry for him so I spoke up "Badgersoul, I don't know what happened. But you've changed and, if you hadn't change maybe we would have been mates."

Badgersoul glanced over his shoulder with saddness in his eyes as he turned around. "It wasn't me who changed." he snarled, though it

sounded closer to a sob. "And I can't let you be with him." and with that he leaped forward with his claws prepared to lash at my throat.

Though I felt bad for him I knew I had to stop him and protect myself. Just as he came in paws reach I lashed out my claws, managing to slice open his throat.

As he fell to the ground I stood over his body as he struggled for breath.

As I stood there I whispered to his dying body "I'm sorry Badgersoul, I never wanted to hurt you." I said this, though I had known his spirit had died long ago.

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"I am nothing like him!" Tigerfang said. "I would never hurt you like he did!"

'no' I replied 'but in a way I would rather be dead then be your mate when you act so much like him.'

"Are we still friends?" he asked quietly with hope shining in his tear filled eyes.

Looking at him I felt that he already knew the answer but was hoping it wasn't true.

'Not anymore Tigerfang, not when you act like this.

And with that Tigerfang left me, with his tail dragging in the fourtrees clearings dirt, his body almost the mirror image of Badgersouls on the day I had been forced to kill him.

Chapter Twenty-Eight: Riversong

"Are we out of fox territory yet?" I yawned as I followed the tabby Tom that had helped me fight the fox-kit. It had been three sunrises since then, last night had been the full moon, and yet he had not yet told me his name.

It felt strange to be forced to trust a Tom who was not only a loner but also did not trust me enough to tell me his name.

"We should be out by moon-sight" he replied as he shot a quick glance at me.

I was begining to understand his way of speech, when he said 'mew', he meant 'kit' and 'sharp-fang' he meant 'a warriors age' he also used different names for seasons and times of dar or night, light 'moon-sight' meant 'moon-rise' and 'mid-sun' meant 'sun-high'.

It had taken some getting used to but his voice was becoming something I was used to, even his strange accent seemed to be disappearing from my ear's notice.

"Stop." he hissed lowly as a bush twitched ahead of us.

I sniffed the air smelling only the scent of Kittypet. "It's not a fox, only a lots Kittypet." I said quietly.

Lifting his head the Tom also sniffed "Your right." he muttered quietly then louder he called to the other cat "Come out where we can see you."

As he spoke a black and white Tom carefully picked his way out of the bushes, his bright green eyes clouded with slight fear, though it was well hidden by curiosity.

"I'm sorry" he replied with a curt nod, "i wasn't actually hiding, you

see a bramble had caught my tail while I was hunting."

"huh." the tabby Tom grunted "You shouldn't be hunting here anyway housecat, this forest is filled with foxes."

The tuxedo Tom lifted his head with slight fear when the brown tabby had spoken of the foxes. "Oh my!" he gasped "And is that why you are both so roughed up! I was worried when I saw your scars, thought you might be some of those mountain cats!"

"Mountain cats?" I murmured thoughtfully.

"Yes!" the tuxedo said "The mountain cats are so fierce I've heard that they rip off your fur quicker than any cat could lift a claw!" then pausing the Tom looked thoughful. "But then again they life on the other side of town so this would defiantly be to far for them! You to needn't worry about them!"

"Actually, I was here looking for them." I replied to him.

"What?!" the tabby tom gasped "No cat can go in those mountains, the cats their are killers!"

"Yea!" the other Tom agreed "cats that go thee never come back!"

I could feel the hair on my back rising, Starclan had told me that these cats would welcome my arrival but what these cats said made it sound like I was walking towards my death.

After a moment of silence I sighed.

"I'm afraid I must go. I can't return home until I meet these mountain cats, so if I can't return after meeting them it would be better then not trying."

"Well.." the tuxedo Tom muttered "If you put it that way it does make sense." then after a few moments the Tom looked up and continued "I can take you though the town, but I am not going with you into those mountains."

Speaking up, the tabby Tom added "I'll help you as well, the town has many cats in it that don't like strangers in their land. I'm sure

that if they see me with you they won't attack."

I nodded thankful to have the two toms with me, wether they were or weren't kittypets.

"I'm Oreo by the way." the tuxedo Tom said kindly as he dipped his head.

Glanceing at the tabby Tom he asked "I'm sure that he hasn't yet told you his name."

Glareing at Oreo the tabby said "That is only because I only expected to get her through the forest!" then turning to me he continued "As cat with no permanent den it is better to not make friends with cats you will never see again, but seeing as we will be together for over a moon I may as well say. My name is Tobby."

I met his eyes and saw that he felt slightly more trusting now that he had given me his name. So turning to face them both I replied "I am Riversong of Thunderclan."

As we began walking Tobby turned and with a curious glint in his amber eyes he asked "Thunderclan?"

And so as we walked through the slowly thinning forest I told him of the clans and my sister, explaining to him all that had happened to us.

Chapter Twenty-Nine: Blackheart

My lifted my head as i looked at the leaffall sky, no other cat was here to disturb me so i was trying to enjoy the soft murmurs of the forest. Prey have begun to slowly dissapear as the weather had started to get colder so i had decided to go hunting. Riversong had still not returned and though I was full of worry it seamed that the rest of the clan was moving on with Darkflame as the new Thunderclan medicine-cat. Each time a cat asked for Darkflame to check on them I begged in my mind that one of them would possibly slip, to acidently say Riversong and show that i was not the only one in the clan remembering her.

My wiskers twitched as the scent of a nearby water vole reached my sences. The river tricked by just across the border as I realized i had strain close to the Riverclan border. I soon saw the vole in reach as i staled through the quickly thining undergrowth, once the vole was close enough for me to easily catch i lept. Wishing i could purr at such a large catch I mouthed a sighlent thanks to Sarclan.

"Nice catch!" a voice called from the other side of the river. Looking up i saw a silvery-grey tabby tom as he swam accross the river and sat on the border. "I was worried it would cross the scent line and i would have to take it from you." he continued friendily.

I twiched my tail in responce and nodded my head as i prepared to return deeper into my terretory with my catch.

"Oh!" he exclaimed "your that mute cat right? i thought you were in the new clan!"

Looking black at him i shook my head saddly as i remembered how much I had once loved Tigerfang, enough to be willing to leave Tunderclan on no more then his dream.

"what made you leave?" he asked as his blue eyes bore into mine.

I witched my wiskers at him and tlted my head, trying to remind him that i couldnt speak.

"Sorry!" he said as he caught my hint. "im not used to it is all." then standing he continued "id better return to my clan before they begin to worry for me!My names Thorntail by the way!"

I watched as he bounded into the reeds of Riverclan territory. Picking up my vole i began to return to the Thunderclan camp as i thought of why the tom had been alone on the Thunderclan border in the first place.

As the sun began to set i settled myself by the nettle patch to eat a mouse i had taken from the freshkill pile.

While i ate i could feel Leafstorms eye burning into my pelt from where he sat across the clearing. He and I had never seen eye to eye, at least not since i had been forced to kill his brother, but now since Badgersoul had taken over Whitestars body it felt as though his trust in me had shrivled down to nothing. And if i had to guess, depending on his possible future actions, i would find myself begining to doubt his loyalty towards Thunderclan. Hopefuly if he didnt regain that faith soon he would at least not pass his anger and posible disloyalty to Midnightpaw, if that hppened i wouldnt know what to do...

After eating m freshkill i noticed as he walked over to me. "blackheart." he grunted "Amberstar wants you to go on a potrol with Midnightpaw and I." he sounded as if he did not like the idea of me joining him on patrol and yet we both knew that Amberstars word was law. So I joined him in waiting near the camp entrence. As soon as midnightpaw padded out of the apprentices den she walked over to us; bouncing excitedly at being shown the borders for the first time.

"Hey!" Flashpelts voice sounded across the clearing as she padded over to us with her apprentice Snowpaw. "Amberstar just told me you we going out to patroo the borders, so i asked if we could join and she agreed."

I nodded and turned to follow Leafstorm as he led the patrol out of the camp.

"So," Midnightpaw asked loudly as we began to walk through the forest. "which border will we be patroling? Windclan or Riverclan?"

"Or Shadowclan!" Snowkit added, unwilling to let his sister get ahead of him.

"go question!" Flashpelt said to the two apprentices, "Leafstorm? which border should we see to?"

Leafstorm glared at the older warrior with impatience in his eye. "Didnt Amberstar tell you?" he hissed at the she cat then looking at Snowpaw and Midnightpaw he said with a slightly kinder tone "We will be patroling the Shadowclan border, can you guess why?"

"Because Shadowclan is always planning somthing!" Midnightpaw mewed "just like you said at the gathering right?"

"Good Midnightpaw," Flashpelt said as she nooded at the apprentice. "But also because just before you were kitted Shadowclan attack the us at a gathering so we dont know what to expect from them right now."

I as she said that i remembered that night as it had happend, it was the night that Splashstar had healed my hind legs so i could fight in the battle and meet Foxfur (Foxpaw then) face to face which led to her eventually becoming the medicine cat of Moonclan.

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as soon as we reached the border Leafstorm glared at me again, his amber eye locking with mine. and though i was begining to loath the way he he had don this ever few moments i was almost thankful that the other three cats didnt notice it yet.

looking back at Midnightpaw he said "this is the border, make sure you remember that this scent is Shadowclans and that you do NOT cross the bordermarkers!"

Flashpelt glnced at her Snowkit and said once Leafstorm finished

"listen to him Snowpaw, what he is saying apllies to all apprentices."

I closed my eyes and listened to Leafstorm go on about borders and how enportant they are. As i began to let myseld tone him out i listend to the rustle of the leaf-fall cracked leaves as the breeze shook them softly.

Sudenly my mind was snapped back to where i was standing and a Shadowclan voice reached my ears.

"what are you doing so close to the border!" the large black she-cat hissed as three other Shadowclan cats flanked him with their claws unsheathed.

i listened as Flashpelt replied calmly "We are only patroling the border," she said "as you can tell we havent crossed the markers."

"Markers mean nothing anymore!" one of the other shadowclan cats snarled

"Shut up!" the Black tom hissed at her clan-mate then again turning to us she replied to Flashpelt "how do we not know that you werent about to cross into our territory?"

"do we really look like a battle patrol?" Leafstorm snapped.

"there could be more of them in the undergrowth!" the other cat growled again.

"Bloodstripe! do you really want to loose your wiskers?!" the black she-cat threatoned the tan tabby tom with blood red stripes again. "sorry about him." she said with hint of anger in her voice and a hidden gleam in her yellow eyes "he was only recently made a warrior."

I nodded and stood as i flicked my tail, Flashpelt watched and told the Shadowclan she-cat what i said.

"she says 'we have just as much right to be this close to the border on our side as you do where you are standing.' which i have to agree with." Flashpelt said as she nodded, agreeing with what she

had repeated.

"I agree as well." the Black shecat nodded with her blue-grey ears twitching with amusement, though she asked nothing. "Its best we both be moving along." she finished as she stood and led her patrol away, though the cat called Bloodstripe slowed and glared at us, his red-brown eyes locking with mine for a moment before moving his glare to Leafstorm, though when he met the Thunderclan tom's eyes it was not anger that passed between the two toms, it looked more like acnoledgement.

Was Leafstorm planning somthing with Shadowclan?

Chapter Thirty: Riversong

Rows and rows of twoleg dens had past as we walk through the twoleg place. Every now and then a monster would roar past us, soaking us in horrible smelling fluids.

My nose and throat burned from the harsh smells of thunder-paths and rubbish.

"Are we nearing the end of this place?" I hissed as the sun began to set. "I need to reach the mountains soon!"

"I'm sorry Riversong." Oreo sighed "It's still a few nights journey from here to the mountains."

I grunted in response and continued to follow the two toms.

Soon we came to a wall, from the other side of it there was the loud barking of a dog as it heard us approaching.

"What now?" I hissed loudly "We can't go back and I'm not going in there!"

Looking back at me Tobby laughed his reply. "We walk on the fence, the dog can't jump onto it like we can."

Once he finished he and Oreo leapt onto the fence and looked down as he called for me to follow.

Once I had also leaped onto the fence I felt my due prick as I saw the dog beneath us on the other side, it's strong looking teeth snapping as he barked loudly at us.

Though my paws felt that the fence was sturdy it was a relief when we had gotten past the dog.

"We'll be able to see how far we've got left soon." Tobby said as he walked along the fence behind me. "Then we can stop and hunt."

My stomach growled at the thought of fresh kill. I hadn't eaten much since I had left the forest, we had only been able to stop a few times since I had been insistent that we needed to arrive at the mountains soon.

After a few moments the fence ended and the slanted top of a twoleg den stood in front of us.

Without even stopping to speak, Oreo launched himself onto the roof, so I followed and listened as Tobby did the same.

Slowly the slope led upward until we reached where it began to slope downward and from there we were able to see everything ahead of us.

From what I saw it was defiantly bound to be several more sunrises of travel, but I could also see the mountains as their peaks met the clouds.

And just below us there was a small patch of forest, from which the prey scent was drifting up towards us.

"We can stay the night there, and travel in the morning." Tobby grunted, his low voice almost a murmur in the wind that was blowing in from the mountains.

"Good idea," I replied as I began to carefully walk down towards the forest.

Chapter Thirty-One: Blackheart

"Are you sure your fine?" Nettleblossom asked as she stretched, shaking the balls of moss from her fur then looking at me.

'I'm sure.' I replied as I also stretched. Ever since the argument on the Shadowclan border I had been jumpy around Leafstorm.

Now it wasn't just that he didn't trust me, he was going against the clan and allying himself with a Shadowclan warrior. And not just any Shadowclan cat, but Bloodstripe; who was well known for his strength in battle.

"Well Echostream has us on dawn patrol with Leafstorm and Midnightpaw so it's best we head out now.

My pelt quivered as I tried to push my mistrust towards the Tom out of my mind, perhaps he had just met the other Tom at the gathering and... They had spoken about me.. That wasn't good but it was better then having him be disloyal towards the entire clan.

"Still no fresh scent!" Leafstorm hissed as we reached the Riverclan border.

'are you sure?' I asked as I caught his eye, 'I thought I caught a fresh scent of them, but the same cat as the last time I patrolled.'

"I smelt it as well." Nettleblossom added "I think it's that Tom Thorntail again, the one who helped Riversong save me from drowning in the river."

Sniffing the breeze again Leafstorm nodded "Your right, its best we make sure he hasn't crossed the border. Riverclan cats never seem to know how borders work anymore."

Glanceing at Nettleblossom I caught a blaze of anger in her amber and blue colored eyes. Was it at Leafstorms accusations toward

Riverclan?

Once we reached Fourtrees there was still no sign of Riverclan having crossed the border.

Leafstorm still did not trust that we had covered the border accurately as he glared at the two of us, Midnightpaw sitting at his side, her eyes not catching her mentor's mistrust towards Nettleblossom and I.

"Though I don't trust that we've covered the borders well enough I suppose we should return to camp..." he grunted though the anger still slightly shown in his amber gaze. "You two can report back to camp, I'm going to take Midnightpaw here out for some training.

Nettleblossom nodded and turned around towards the camp so I did the same, though my fur pricked at the thought of leaving my kit with the only cat in my clan whom I did not trust.

'I don't trust him.' I twitched slightly with my tail once we were out of his sight.

"Well he did try to kill you." Nettleblossom murmured "So I have to agree with you on that one, you should have seen how he looked at Riversong while she was here. I had only just become a warrior when she came back and still I knew something was up with him."

'At least I'm not the only one who sees it. The other day at the Shadowclan border when we met their patrol he swapped a glance with Bloodstripe. And it wasn't a warning one at that; in fact they looked more like they were planning something."

"It's not surprising that he has something against the two of us, I was a Kittypet and you left the clan..." she sighed "I hope he doesn't do anything to Midnightpaw while we aren't there."

'If he does I'll shred him!' I twitched as my claws sank into the earth.

"All we can do now is hope he's changed I guess..."

'Right, may as well return to camp.' And with that the two of us returned to camp and began to head to Amberstars den.

"So there was nothing?" Amberstar said as she sat up-right in front of us.

"That's right, only scent we found was Thorntails, and it was on the Riverclan side of the border."

'And Leafstorm took Midnightpaw for some training in the hollow.' I added.

"Good." Amberstar replied "It seams that our clan has finally got itself moving on the right path again, you may both leave now."

As Nettleblossom nodded and left I stayed.

'Actually there something about yesterdays run-in with Shadowclan that I should tell you about.' I said when she saw I hadn't gotten up to leave. 'Im fairly sure Leafstorm left it out in his report.'

"Very well," She replied thoughtfully. "Go head."

'Shadowclan doesn't seam to follow the warrior code anymore. One of their warriors said something about the border meaning nothing anymore, and at the end when we had sought it out, Leafstorm swapped a look with the warrior Bloodstripe, and it looked more like the two warriors agreed with each other then where enemies in an argument between our clans.'

Amberstar closed her eyes for a moment an sighed "I have doubted Leafstorm loyalties, so I cannot ignore your warning Blackheart. Though I also cannot do anything without seeing that he is a threat myself, so far he has done nothing to harm his clan but I will be watching him closely. As for Shadowclan, I can see that things have gotten worse since the battle at fourtrees, but it seams that so far without Whitestar Windclan has not sided with them." then looking up she added "Thank you for telling me this you are now dismissed."

As I padded out of Amberstars den Nettleblossom approached me.

"So what did you say that wasn't for a friends ears?" she asked with a joking purr.

I was about to reply but quickly stopped my tail as Darkflame joined us. "How was patrol?" he asked as he sat at Nettleblosssoms side."

"Good," Nettleblossom replied. "Not much to be found on the Riverclan border today."

"That's good, we've got enough to worry about with Shadowclan and Windclan on our tails, we don't need all the clans planning our deaths!" Darkflame purred as he then stood "Well I was just on my way to see Amberstar, she sent for me just before you arrived." And with that Darkflame disappeared into Amberstars den.

"Now tell me what you where going to say?"

'I was just telling her my worries about Leafstorm.'

"Did she believe you?"

'She said that she couldn't risk not listening to me.'

"And? What will she do?"

'Nothing until she sure that he's planning against us.'

"That's good," Nettleblossom purred, "At least he'll have her watching him as well, and one slip up and Leafstorm will face the consequences!"

Looking down I replied 'I hope it doesn't come to that though, if it involves anyone being harmed.'

"Right, best we get some prey before he returns?"

'Just what I was thinking!' I replied as we began to walk towards the fresh-kill pile.

The waning moon was now visible in the sky as lifted my muzzle, breathing in the cool air.

Nettleblossom and I had been hunting for most of the day and we now sat on Sunning rocks as we watched the moon rise.

We had rested here when we had caught enough prey to soak in the last of the Sun's warmth.

"I guess we should head back before they start to worry?" Nettleblossom said as she stood.

I nodded, stretched, and stood; waiting to head into the forest to gather our prey, but suddenly Nettleblossom's ears pricked and she replied in a rushed voice.

"I think I'll stay for a moment and check for any voles hidden in the rocks, can you gather the other prey?"

My mind burned with curiosity at what had made my friend change her mind, but I asked no questions as I replied using my tail. 'Sure; just watch out for Riverclan, they still seem a bit touchy about this bit of territory.'

"I may have been a Kittypet," she replied with a friendly glare, "But I didn't earn my warrior name by eating twoleg slop!"

I gave a small smile and turned to leave.

But as I leapt from the smooth rock my pelt prickled as a murmur caught in my ear...

Chapter Thirty-Two: Riversong

The hard feeling of the thunderpath scraped at my paws as I lagged behind the two toms who had been leading me to the mountains.

Several moonrises had passed since our night in the small patch of forest. And now as the sun had begun to set again, my heart felt as if in more pain then ever at the realization of how far I was truly headed.

Tobby glanced back at me and slowed his pace to match mine, as I looked at both of our paws I noticed that, though he was a rouge, his paws where much stronger then my forest-soft paws.

"I'm sorry for being so slow," I sighed "I'm just not used to the ground here."

Meeting my eyes Tobby replied kindly "It's ok Riversong, I know what it's like to be new to this sort of ground."

"You do?"

"Yes, I grew up in the foxes forest before they moved there. But since there where so few cats and so many foxes..." he sighed looking away. "The few of us left chose to leave rather then die fighting against impossible odds."

We where silent for a few moments before I replied.

"Is that where Oreo is from as well?"

"Not entirely.. He started as a house-cat, or in your words 'Kittypet, but he left them when he decided that he preferred the forest."

"Why where the two of you so deep in the foxes forest then?"

"Those of us who fled the forest take turns checking the forest for lost house-cats, or outsiders such as yourself. We make sure they don't whined up as fox-prey."

"that makes sense." I replied with a curt node, but held the rest of my reply as the sight of an end to the twoleg nests caught my eye. "Finally!" I purred as I suddenly forgot my pain and sprinted for the end of twoleg place.

The moment my paws hit the soft ground I dropped myself to the ground relaxing instantly as the thought of my hopefully soon to be ended journey entered my mind, it felt as though I was already halfway home.

After a few moments I stood again realizing that Tobby and Oreo still stood on the border of twoleg place and the grassy fields between there and the mountains.

"I guess this is it then." Tobby grunted, trying to sound indifferent though I saw saddness flicker in his amber eyes.

I felt a small amount of sadness also enter my heart as I realized he was partially right,

"It doesn't have to be," I said "You could come with me."

But Oreo shook his head "All cats who enter the mountains never return..."

I turned my eyes two Tobby wanting him to reply on his own.

His eyes clouded over as he spoke "My sister went up there long ago, and she never returned."

"Then I will still see you at least on my return to my clans territory." I said as my voice cracked slightly.

"We shall only hope." Tobby grunted as his strong shoulders sagged, I knew that in his mind he thought that I was to die in these mountains.

Once turning to Oreo I realized that it was clear that he also thought this.

Padding to them perhaps for the last time I touched noses with each of them in turn. Then I said my likely to be a final good bye.

"thank you both for leading me to this point in my journey. I will remember you until the day I join Starclan."

At that I turned and began to walk towards the mountains, that walk soon turned to a run, which sped into a sprint as though I ran for my life.

Soon I was going to be home!

Chapter Thirty-Three: Blackheart

I strained my ears as I waited for it to sound again, possibly more clearly though.

And it did...

"Blackheart!" the voice hissed again, from just behind me.

Spinning around to face the cat who owned the voice I froze in shock when I saw who it was.

His forest green eyes seamed to glow darkly in the moonlight, and his fur ragged as if he has not bothered to groom in a long time.

He stepped towards me, his paws staggering as though he was wounded though I could not tell if he was in the darkness that concealed him.

But still, I knew who he was.

'...Tigerfang?' I asked with my tail slowly.

The toms eyes became slits as he sneered his reply in a long drawl that I had never heard him speak with before.

"So you've still bothered to remember my name? After the last time we spoke I thought you'd toss it aside as you did with my heart!"

My heart sank as I realized how much he had changed even just since the last gathering.

'I never wanted to leave! You pushed me away when you did the same to my our kits!'

"Our kits?" he snarled dramatically "OUR kits? No Blackheart, they where your kits! Yours and Whitestars!"

I closed my eyes and felt the sharp sting of static as it burned off of his black-striped pelt.

Opening them I replied 'Leave our territory Tigerfang... I will not have this argument with you again!'

His darkened eyes gleamed as he hissed "Coward! You only fear my powers, that is why you will not fight!"

Tigerfang then crouched down his paws glowing dimly with electricity, the same as he had used to fill my kits with playful joy by warming the gorges stones that had been cooled in the shade.

"I've been trained now Blackheart, I could kill you in one swipe of my paw if I want."

'But-' I managed to twitch with my tail 'a warrior does not need to kill to win the battle!'

"I am above the code!" he snapped. Then more slowly he added "Badgersoul told me the true reason you killed him!"

'what?'

"You taunted him over and over until he fell for you, and then, you drove him mad by not letting him have you! You made it look like he was a murderer and killed him when you had the chance!" Tigerfang paused, looking down at his paws as their glow grew brighter; reflecting in his eyes, they made them turn a shade of Yellow-green. then he chuckled quietly "And I can't believe I almost fell for the same trick! But no... Instead of you killing me I will be the one to watch you die, but not at my claws. No... I am to powerful to kill you as swiftly as you did Badgersoul."

Branches rustled behind the Tom as Nettleblossom appeared with several voles dangling from her jaws.

As quickly as she appeared Tigerfangs paws became normal as he murmured only loud enough for me to hear "Your lucky your Kittypet friend came when she did. The next time I see you you can expect that I will not give you the chance to harm more cats."

And with that he disappeared, a breeze of wind following carrying his scent being the only way to know that he had returned to Moonclan territory.

I just stood there for a moment, trying to take in what had just happened.

Tigerfang, one of the new elemental cats... Had just not only vowed to kill me but had also joined the side of Badgersoul, the one who had vowed to get revenge on me at what ever cost.

"...Blackheart?" Nettleblossom asked as though she had been repeating my name for some time. "What was Tigerfang doing?"

'...Nothing...' I managed to say with my tail, though I knew the betrail I felt was showing brightly in my eyes. 'let's just return to camp... I'm sure their missing us.'

Nettleblossom met my gaze with understanding and walked over as she rested her tail on my shoulder, leading me through the forest as we gathered our prey then went to the Thunderclan camp.

"Where have you two been!" Echostream hissed as she saw us entering the camp, the moon well above us.

"Night hunting." Nettleblossom replied calmly "sorry we worried you, but we did have your permission."

I would have backed my friend up but all I could do was think about what Tigerfang had said when he attacked me.

"I gave you permission to go out hunting at sunhigh, you've been out all day and most of the night."

I decided to 'speak' up then 'we bumped into Tigerfang' I said 'he held us up for a little while, tried to talk me into joining Moonclan again.'

Though I knew that it wasn't the entire truth, I felt it was enough to get us out of trouble.

"Very well, you may as well put that on the pile and head to your den." Echostream sighed as she turned and walked towards Amberstars den, probably to let her know that we were back.

Nettleblossom and I swapped a glance before carrying our catches to the fresh kill pile.

I hadn't noticed how tired I was and how badly my paws ached until I entered the den, all the other warriors had already fallen asleep so as hard as it felt, I had to quietly maneuver through their sleeping bodies with Nettlebloosom at my back.

The moment we reached our nests and had lain down, my eyes closed and I was about to fall asleep but the sound of rustling fur woke me slightly.

Lifting my head I unexpectedly met the burning amber gaze of Leafstorm, his eyes filled wig a hatred so stormy that it was clearly visible though we were across the room from each other.

But still I met those eyes bravely, knowing that I had both the clan leader and my friend Nettleblossom at my sides.

Even if Leafstorm had Tigerfangs new-found power on his.

Chapter Thirty-Four: Riversong

The cold mountain breeze flattened my fur as I made my way through the rocky slopes. I couldn't tell how long it had been since I had left Tobby and Oreo on the border of the twoleg place and the grassy slopes that led to these mountains.

So far there was no cat in sigh, but neither was there any prey scent, thus I knew that I still had a long journey ahead.

Every now and then I stopped to scent the air, praying to Starclan that I had not missed the cats that I had been scent to find.

Though I could not see the sky due to a drifting fog that surrounded me, I felt that the sun would have sunken deep beneath the sky, leaving the moons silver glow and the glitter of silverpelt in it's place.

And so I decided to rest, figuring that perhaps the fog would be gone when the mornings new raise of light banished it form it's path.

I found a slight cave in one of the stones that towered ahead, and after checking it for the scent of any other animal; only to find it clear, I went in and laid myself down on the cold damp stone.

The sound of quick paw-steps approaching woke me.

I laid still, hoping that my silvery-grey pelt blended in well enough to hide me, I kept my eyes closed as to not let the light filtering into the cave reflect off my blue and green eyes.

"Yes," a She-cats voice sounded into the cave where I was "The scent is coming from in here."

A second voice, that of a tom came next, "come out stranger, we will not harm you if you do not wish to harm us."

I opened my eyes only to see a pair of bright amber eyes peering at me though the cave mouth.

"Alright," I managed to reply "I'm coming out."

Once I stepped out of the small cave I saw that there where four cats staining out side, each of their pelts covered in a thick layer of mud.

The tom who had been looking into the cave stepped forward to speak.

"I am River That Rushes Through Canyon, of the Tribe of Rushing Water. Who are you any why are you here on our territory."

I met his amber gaze as strongly as I could manage, though my legs dabbled with relief at finding these cats. "I am Riversong, medicine-cat of Thunderclan. And I am here because I was told I would be welcomed."

The she-cat who had spoken before stepped to the toms side as she replied for him. "we where told that you would come."

I hadn't known how much I had been unsure of wether Starclan was right or not until I saw that she-cats green eyes and how they were not welcoming at all, instead they held anger.

"Actually we where warned." the tom grunted. "But we will take you to our cave and see what Stoneteller has to say."

My heart sank as I realized that Starclan had not spoken truthfully.

"I will come with you without refraining, I can assure you that I am no threat."

The tom grunted in reply, clearly unhappy with my words as he turned to lead me away; the other three cats takeing places on each side of me. A shadow emerged, touching my pelt with it's, the other cats did not notice, though his rank scent filled my nose as he hissed into my ear.

"...I told you you would be punished..."

Sudenly realization priked at my fur, the cat who had told me to leave the clans was not a Starclan cat, but instead it had been one of Scarpelts warriors.

Chapter Thirty-Five: Blackheart

Several days had passed since my encounter with Tigerfang. No trace of him had been found in our territory since, though on every patrol I took along the Moonclan border his scent always was the strongest.

Amberstar had made sure that I was never alone with Leafstorm, every patrol that we happened to be together on there was another cat with us, most often it was Nettleblossom.

And with each passing day I noticed that Middnightpaw was avoiding me more and more, shooting glares at me and always staying at her mentor, Leafstorms side.

When my other two kits ran to meet me after a hard day of training she would only glare from a distance.

Tonight I planned on confronting her.

'Middnightpaw!' I said as I walked over to her at the fresh-kill pile, 'it seams you are avoiding me.' I said with a joking smile though inside I knew she had been meaning to do it 'Im worried you've forgotten your mother because she can't call you from a distance.'

Middnightpaw replied in a snort "I dont think you are loyal enough to be my mother."

'What do you mean?' I replied as the smile slowly faded from my lips.

"I've got reasons!" she hissed "You've switched clans more than once and you can't even stay loyal to your mate!" her eyes glistened with the same hate her mentors eyes had always held towards me "Your an un-loyal freak who lost their voice because she deserved it!"

My eyes widened 'Thats just your mentor speaking right? He's just lied to you is all Middnightpaw, I gave my voice to defend my clan!

And it was Tigerfang who chose power over me!'

"I've heard so many stories that I don't know what to think anymore!" my kit spat "I'm loyal to my mentor what ever you think or are! It's even your fault he's not the deputy anymore!"

And before I could reply the black she-cat snatched her piece of fresh-kill and quickly padded over to the nettle-patch with her siblings.

Out of the corner of my eye I caught a glance of Leafstorm watching his apprentice with a the clear look of pride on his face.

My chest tightened in anger and I stalked up to him, body held high as to appear taller than him.

'What have you done to my kit!' I said, swishing my tail.

The toms amber eyes glowed with contempt as he purred his reply "I told her the truth."

'You've filled her head with lies and confusion!'

"Call the truth what you like, it's still the truth."

I narrowed my eyes 'Only loyal cats can say they speak the truth.'

"And who are you to say I am not loyal? I'm not the one to switch clans each moon, your sister didn't even bother to stay!"

'My sister never tried to kill a member of her clan, Unlike your brother!'

"You drove him to it and killed him when given the chance!"

My ears pricked, that was exactly what Tigerfang had said. But before I could reply Amberstar hissed at Leafstorm from behind me,

"Leafstorm! How dare you use that against Blackheart, Badgersoul was the one who attacked her and the move she used to kill him was clearly defensive! Need I remind you of when you joined forces with Witestar and tried to kill Blackheart and Tigerfang? Was that

not against the code?"

Leafstorm laid his ears back, hot with anger as he replied in a tight grunt "My apologies Amberstar" he looked as if to say more but his eyes fixed over Amberstars shoulder and a smirk covered his face. He stood, his amber eyes once again on Amberstar and I.

"You cannot exile me for telling my apprentice the truth Amberstar, I have done nothing wrong since the last warning I received." he then dipped his head and padded towards the medicine den.

Amberstar sighed and let herself relax slightly "At least he hasnt harmed anyone... Though he has just shown me that his loyalty is definatly not with this clan anymore.

'he's gone and turned my own kit against me, filled her head with the lies that he claims are the truth. And Tigerfang said the same thing the last time I saw him...'

"Really? What did they say?"

'That I tricked Badgersoul into his obsession, and used it as an excuse to kill him.'

Amberstars eyes shown with concern "Was there anything else Tigerfang said?" I knew she had seen my saddness in my eyes.

'Id rather not say, it will be my battle to fight. Not your Amberstar, you are already working hard enough as leader, and with Leafstorm-'

"I understand your fears Blackheart, just know I will always be here to help you, as your leader and a friend."

'Thank you, I'll remember that.'

Chapter Thirty-Six: Riversong

I had been with the tribe for several sunrises, the cave which they used as a camp was beautiful; and I had to admire it even if I was a prisoner until I could explain myself.

They didn't treat me unkindly, though I could tell they shot glances of fear at me every time my back was turned.

And they had a good reason, I had been sent here by the dark forest, sent here by the murderers whom had been outcast by all others.

"Riversong." a lithe silvery grey Tom said as he padded up to me. "Stoneteller wishes to speak with you in her den."

I stood and nodded politely as I followed him to Stonetellers cave.

"The Clan cat is here." he called into the cave from where we waited outside.

"She may enter." a shrill she-cats voice called back.

Glancing at the Tom that had brought me here I watched as he nodded for me to do as the Stoneteller had said, so I did.

I padded cautiously into the small cave. A small amount of moonlight trickling in through the celling made it so I could see a sleek she-cats body outlined in the darkness.

"I'm sorry for coming." I said quietly as I reached the she-cat who sat looking into the moonlight as it reflected off a small pool of water at her paws.

"We were told of a she-cat that would come, led here by those who will try to destroy us." she said as she looked up, her vibrant brown eyes glowing in the darkness '"The River will be led to a new by the darkness of the forest around it. It's last Song will be played or the Forest will fall.' I don't yet know what this means other than

something has been sent here by darkness and that something mystery pay in order to save us."

"Why are you telling me this?" I asked as prophecies where mostly meant to stay with those they where meant for.

" I don't know... What is your name once more?"

"...Riversong."

"And you are from a group called Thunderclan?"

"I am..."

"Did the darkness send you here?"

My heart thudded in my chest as I realized I could not lie ".... I was tricked by the darkness... Yes I was sent by them though..."

Her ears perked "They did send you?"

"Yes, but I was tricked by them."

"How"

"They posed as my clans ancestors and told me that my destiny was here and that you would send me back when the time came."

Stoneteller looked again into the pool of water her eyes shining as she thought over what she had just learned. After a few moments the moon struck the surface of the water, causing it to glow pure white.

It was then that I realized that this was the same as the moonstone, the place where the tribe spoke to their ancestors.

"The tribe of endless hunting has spoken..." the she-cat murmured as she broke her gaze from the glowing water which turned her pelt silver with tis light. "You will lead our savior to us and then you can return."

"you mean a member of my clan has come looking for me?" I

gasped

"Perhaps," she sighed "This is all I have been told, for now I must tell my tribe that you are welcome and you have been meant to come here by our ancestors.

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Another few days had passed since I had become fully welcomed into the tribe, and they had begun to train me as a prey-hunter; as apparently the tribe separated their duties and the Stoneteller was to be the only healer.

So now I was out hunting with a couple of the others in the tribe, Rush; the toe that had first found me who was a cave guard, Fern a prey hunter, otherwise known as Fern that Sways in Wind, and Moon; also a prey hunter, known as The Dark Nights Moon.

With the sun bright overhead we had begun to return to camp, Fern Moon and I each carrying our prey in our jaws as Rush kept his sences alert for hunting eagles.

Suddenly Rush's ears pricked setting down my prey I listened to know what it was he had heard.

Then the sound came again. It was the scrabbleing of claws on the rough mountain stone.

"Come out where we can see you!" Rush hissed as the Scrabbling sounds continued to get closer.

When I saw the toms eyes widen as a shadow covered the ground near me I turned around.

"Oreo?" I gasped as the Tom stepped closer, his black and white fur ragged and jaws parted in a pant.

"Riversong?" he panted, a joyous note entering his voice just as his legs let out from underneath him.

"Are you ok?" I asked as I rushed over to his side "Is Tobby with you?"

Looking up at me Oreo replied with a slight nod as another shadow approached from behind a rock.

"Yes, I'm here as well. We couldn't leave you without knowing what happened now could we?" the brown tabby tom panted, his amber eyes showing how tired yet happy he was.

Turnning around I met the eyes of the tribe cats, "It's ok, these cars are friends from my journey."

When the three cats stroll looked slightly confused I continued "We need to bring them to the cave, can't you see they need our help?"

After a few more seconds of silence Fern spoke up, "Right, Stoneteller would want us to help them."

At that Moon and Rush nodded and padded over to the two toms, helped them up, and we began to carry them back to the cave as well as the prey we can caught earlier.

Chapter Thirty-Seven: Blackheart

My heart raced as the wind rushed through my fur. The full moon was glowing brightly in the clear sky as we sprinted through the forest, making our way to the gathering.

My three kits had been chosen to come as it was to be their first gathering, their mentors where also chosen, though Amberstar had made it clear that she would be watching Leafstorm.

So in total we had brought; me, Leafstorm, Flashpelt, Nettleblossom, Leopardfang, Echostream, Darkflame, Midnightpaw, Splashpaw, Snowpaw, and of course Amberstar.

Now we stood at the top of the slope that led to Four-Trees. The three original clans were there so far yet Moonclan was not.

I looked at the others around me, Darkflame was looking intently down into the clearing, his amber gaze fixed into place. Leafstorm seamed stiff, Midnightpaw standing next to him, her blue gaze watching his every move.

Suddenly Amberstars tail tip flicked, motioning for us to enter the clearing. As we flooded into the clearing down the slope, I caught sight of Moonclan doing the same on our right side; Tigerfangs black striped pelt glowing vibrantly in the moonlight, it felt as though his forest green eyes were already locked on my scar'd pelt.

When we reached the clearing, Nettleblossom was at my side. She was watching me kindly as she noticed my fur prick at the sight of my old mate.

"Blackheart, are you sure you don't want to tell me what happened?" she asked soothingly.

I shook my head, 'this is my battle to fight.' I tried to tell her with a

calm expression.

She sighed and shook her head but stayed at my side as she watched the other cats in the clearing. It looked as though she was watching for someone.

I almost asked as a chill pierced my pelt, sharp as claws. Looking away from Nettleblossom I saw Tigerfang headed towards me with Snowstar and Pinefall at his sides. His eyes where dark, though Snowstars and Pinefalls gave nothing away.

"Blackheart." Snowstar said, a note of kindness in her voice "We have come to ask that you reenter Moonclan with your kits."

'why?'

Pinefall then spoke "We've learned that without you we cannot fulfill the prophecy given."

Snowstar nodded "You where one of the chosen cats, we need you to come with us to the moonstone tommorow night to learn the next part of our destiny.

'I choose my own destiny' I said with my tail trying not to attract the attention of my clan 'I am a loyal Thunderclan warrior and my kits are as well. I haven't any of the gifts that you may all have and I know it was not meant I be with you or Tigerfang.'

"We understand your reasons Blackheart." the leader said calmly "But we would still wish that you come with us to moonstone to see what Starclan thinks."

She then stepped back allowing Tigerfang to step forward. He glanced back at his leader. I frowned, once my mate, the cat who had saved my life then tried to take it after.

Why would I ever trust him again.

"Blackheart..." he sighed. Almost sounding like his normal self "Please come, -I I'm sorry for what I said the last time we spoke. I haven't been myself lately."

I looked into his eyes, they seamed guarded, He was hiding something from me. But they also held sorrow, and a longing for forgiveness.

"I understand if you choose to hate me for my actions, but we are destined to save the clans together with or without love."

I closed my eyes for a second, longing to have the strength to brush past his plea. But I did not, so when my eyes opened I replied with a steady face.

'I will come to mothermouth but no further if Starclan allows me to return home.'

"Thank you." Snowstar dipped her head turning around as Pinefall followed her though Tigerfang lingered.

His body so close to mine as to where I could feel his breath against my fur and smell his scent around me.

My mind left me for all the great times we had once had together.

But just before I could touch my noes to his, an icy voice shook from his body "Do not forget my warning Blackheart-."

My body shivered and I stepped back and looked into his eyes, once clear but now the hidden emotion clear as dawn.

"Your death will be at my claws."

Chapter Thirty-Eight: Riversong

Watching as the two toms finally fell asleep I began to feel the need to speak to Stoneteller, her kind words being something that I felt I needed.

Soon I felt my paws leading me to her cave.

"Stoneteller?" I called in. There was no answer, figureing that she had fallen asleep I turned to return to my nest in the prey-hunters cave. Before I could begin to walk away my ears pricked as quiet murmurs began to come from the cave of pointed stones.

Turning back to face the caves mouth I saw a pair of glowing eyes in the darkness.

"Riversong." the holder of the glowing eyes murmured "you have been summoned."

I tried to make out the cat with glowing eyes, but after a few moments I entered the cave without question, following the cats scent as it led me further into the cave.

Moonlight reflected gently off the pools of water around my paws as small ripples cause the reflected light to dance like stars on the cave ceiling. I could see the dark outline of the cat leading me through the tunnels. It's pawsteps making no ripples as the light began to grow stronger ahead.

Finally the starry cat stopped and sat down underneath a pool of light that filtered down from the ceiling. His bright brown eyes reflecked the stars and his pelt; though faded, we a pale orange.

I stopped as well, facing the tom as more starry cats began to pad out of the darkness to sit as his sides, slowly beginning to surround me in a circle.

"Riversong." the voices said as one "you have brought our Tribes savior to us."

"What?" I gasped as I realized my clan was not coming to bring me home.

"But you cannot return just yet. For the River must sing it's Last song before this prophecy is complete and we have been saved."

"I'm not a tribe cat!" I hissed at them "My ancestors are in Starclan, not among your ranks!"

Suddenly a slim figure padded out of the tribes ranks "I was once a clan cat, but I have been forgotten by them. Just as you have."

"I am not yet forgotten!" I snapped "I still have kin in the clans that has not yet forgotten me!"

"How can you be sure? Have Starclan visited you? Have your clanmates come to bring you home?"

I heart pounded as I realized they were right.

In a softer voice the cat who had once been of the clans said "You can return once the prophecy is compleat if you wish, but please do not condemn our tribe to this horrid demise."

I nodded accepting this defeat, the tribe needed me more than my clan at this moment. It mostly pained me that I would never meet my mother as Amberstar had promised and might not ever see my sister again.

Slowly the cats surrounding me faded away, leaving me in a large cavern with wet paws and their words ringing in my ears.

"Find what you wanted?" the voice of Stoneteller asked as she padded into the cave behind me.

"No." I sighed as I turned to face her. "But it would appear that I have to stay longer than we both had hoped."

"I see..." she murmured "and anything else?"

I nodded "The savior has come."

"One of the twoleg place cats?"

"Yes."

Chapter Thirty-Nine: Blackheart

It felt strange being with Moonclan again.

All of them had come; Snowstar, Pinefall, Silversong, Blackpelt, Tigerfang, Foxfur and Dewpaw. The clan was small and perhaps they did need my kits and I but I knew that with Tigerfangs threat I could never return, even if I was forced to leave Tunderclan.

"Well," said Foxfur as she stood from her spot. "It's time." her orange pelt shown in the moonlight as her bright blue eyes eyed each of us, it was clear that this night would decide what ever happened after.

Following Pinefall I padded into mothermouth, the cold moist floor turning my paws to ice as his shape disappeared from view.

My heart pounded as I felt Tigerfangs presence in the cramped space that surrounded me. Would he kill me when his clan was watching? In the sight of Starclan?

I pray that he doesn't. But even so I could sense his darkness behind me like a void in the stars.

Suddenly the sprang in front of me brightened. The stars had not met the stone yet but the light of the moon filtering into the cave through the hole in the roof.

Each of the Moonclan cats took a place around the moonstone and sat.

My eyes glistened as I watched the stone come to life, it's once dull grey shade now a dazzling white glow as it a star had fallen from the sky and replaced the stone.

The murmuring sound of many voices began to surround me as the light turned every cats pelt to a shining silver.

One by one the cats touched their noses to the stone. I watched as their eyes would shine just before closing as they would fall to the dreams of Starclan.

Even still I waited for Tigerfangs gaze to flicker to sleep before daring to press my noes against the glow.

My nose burned as though struck by ice as I priests it to the moonstone. My heart nearly stopped as it's bright, star filled, surface filled my gaze; forcing me to close my eyes, shielding them from it's fire.

"Blackheart!" a voice snapped, causing my eyes to jolt open.

A figure stood in front of me, no other cats were there. There was no doubt in my mind as I knew who this was.

"Whitestar." I growled. My only thoughts of this Windclan leader filled with hate. "What do you want."

"I've come to ask for your trust." he said simply, his smooth voice like ice pricking my fur through memories.

The grey tom padded forward with black striped tail held high as his deep blue eyes met mine.

I tried not to flinch away, trying to remind myself it was not this cat who had raped me but Badgersoul.

"Why?" I spat as I looked at my paws "Why trust the one who has taken everything from me?"

I felt regret pulsing from the great toms body as he traced his tail along my scars, the ones that marked ever so vividly that my voice had been torn away from me.

"He promised to give me the strength to lead my clan for many moons. I never could have expected what he would do with my body. " he sighed "I am sorry for my arrogance, which led you through such horrors."

I closed my eyes this was to much for me to take. "What do Starclan

want me to do?" I cried into starclans forest "You've taken everything from me! My voice, my mate, my clans trust, my kits!" then I sobbed quietly "Even Riversong, my only kin left in Thunderclan has been driven away by Starclan!"

Looking up I met the navy blue eyes had once looked at me while hosting pure evil.

"Now what Whitestar? I am left to do starclans bidding, my loyalty to them has not wavered until now. Yet still I come to you for help to continue doing as you ask me." I asked as tears fled my eyes, Whitestars expression nearly shocked. "Not even Greykit has come to help me."

As taken aback as Whitestar seamed he spoke clearly as his voice was sorrowful. "He is a son to me. It is the least I can do for you to care for what you have loved so gravely." He paused and waited for my reply.

It felt as a long time had passed before I replied, fresh tears, though this time of joy came from my eyes. "I forgive you." I said to him.

"Thank you." he breathed in relief as his body began to fade from my view.

I expected to be with the cats of Moonclan but found myself sitting in a moonless forest. The darkness surrounding me, choking me with it's invisible tendrils.

"welcome." a voice said as it padded from behind a bush, his pelt hidden in the shadows "We've waited many moons for this moment." he hissed.

"Yes." another voice said as a sudden rush of pain filled me, not that of claws but as if a bolt of lightning had entered my body.

I felt myself falter as my body went numb, falling to the ground. The pain continued to corse through me as I glazed up from where I was laying in my side.

Three toms padded into view, the light that burned my body fading and leaving nothing more than their eyes visible as my vision

blurred "Welcome."

Chapter Forty: Riversong

I felt my eyes beginning to open as sunlight rippled across the prey-hunters den.

It had only been last night when I had met The Tribe of Endless Hunting and learned that I was to stay until either Tobby or Oreo saved the tribe.

After last night an old prophecy resurfaced in my mind, 'Only the Darkness of Thunder and the Swiftness of River can Save the howling wind.' and after having met the tribe I began to worry that the Wind was not Windclan, and the River not Riverclan but instead being myself.

At first I had hoped it to be Rush, whos full tribe name was River that Rushes through Canyon. But with the Tribes prophecy as well as my own I knew that it could not be him.

"Riversong," Cave, a dark brown Tom with blue eyes said from the den entrance. "You are wanted on a patrol."

"Coming." I replied as I stood and made my way around those who still slept.

Padding to the waterfall I was met by Stone, Rush, Fern and Breeze as they waited to begin our hunt.

We first stopped at the base of the falls where a large pool of mud had been made over seasons of flowing water, and smeared our pelts with it. Almost instantly I could feel my body cooling from it moist touch as it blocked the Sun's growing brightness.

It didn't take us long to cats two large eagles and take them back to the cave.

It was no later than sunhigh when we felt the cool splash of the waterfall beginning to remoisten the dry mud on our pelts.

I was about to begin to head for the freshkill pile as a screech sounded outside the den. The voice that it had Escaped from was clearly not a tribe cat.

Suddenly it came again, a cat in agony, released their pain in hope to be heard.

I rushed outside the den, followed by several cave guards.

It was a shecat, her red brown tabby pelt covered in a thick layer of blood, her body laying on a stone outside the cave.

Her amber eyes caught sight of us and she began to yowl a plea for us to help her.

Several cave guards rushed to her and lifted her up, clearly unaware of what would happen next as a large tan tabby Tom leaped out of where he had been hiding in the shelter of a few large stones. His claws clamping onto Rush's back as a battle cry escaped his mouth and more cats flooded from behind the stones.

The prophecies had begun.

Chapter Forty-One: Blackheart

My eyes opened, my mind gone blank. Where am I? I thought quietly as I looked around. How did I get here?

I felt as though claws had scored themselves across my entire body, leaving me frail, and giving me a limp as I tried to stand.

My throat was soar as well as by upper chest. But for some reason in the back of my mind I knew that this was a good thing, no idea why or how; just that it was good.

Looking around fully for the first time I felt as though I should remember where I was. As if I had been here before.

The earth was covered in thick leaf mold and the sky was pure black, leaving the thick dead undergrowth to only be lit by a dull light that seamed to be coming from the moss the grew at the base of the trees.

After a few moments of trying to remember this place a feeling of dread crept into the back of my mind.

"Hello?" I called, my voice rough as if from lack of use as it echoed through the dead forest.

I stopped and quietly waited for a reply, hoping someone would come and tell me where I was or what was going on.

My heart raced as muffled paw steps began to sound as a cat approached.

I sniffed the musty air and could smell their scent. It was filled with that of fresh undergrowth, that of a forest and again I felt as though I should be able to put a name to it.

"Hello." a black striped white Tom said as he padded out of the shadows, his darkened forest green eyes watching me curiously as he sat.

"Where am I?" I asked, giving a slight cough. "And what happened? I added as I looked at myself in a pool of muddy water; there was no blood and yet I felt as though my insides had been torn out and replaced one more.

"This is the dark forest." he said giving a slight smirk, though I hadn't a clue why "And you were attacked and brought here."

I watched his eyes as they continued to look me over. Then I sighed, frustrated as I felt so hopeless, left to this strangers words "Why can't I remember what happened?"

"Took a pretty nasty nock to the head." he said quickly then added "So you don't remember anything?"

"No." I said as confusion set over me. "How long have I been here?"

"Several days." a new voice said as another Tom slid out of the undergrowth behind the black striped tom. "It's amazing that you haven't faded yet actually."

"Why?" I asked "Why would I fade?"

The first tom spoke up again "This place is for dead cats-"

"I'm dead?!" I screeched in shock, cutting him off.

"No No." The second Tom said, his yellow green eyes full of laughter "That's why we are surprised that you are still here. Though there are plenty of cats that would kill you for a rat tail."

I gasped in shock, I was wanted dead? By who and for what?

Then another question rose in my head.

"Who am I?" I asked, breaking off as another cough escaped.

I watched as the second toms smile grew, he looked as if about to laugh.

The first Tom glades sideways uncertainly at the second, as if unsure of how to answer.

He padded forward, his eyes still uncertain but a smirk lingered on his mussel.

"Your name is Blackheart."

His expression stirred a slight amount of unknown fear deep within me, I tried to remember what had happened.

I saw his face in my mind, it was kind, his eyes full of love and four small kits tumbled over him in play.

Suddenly his expression changed, words were whispered in his voice and yet I could not understand them. The memory of pain shot through me as I fought to remember more.

"Who are you?" I asked.

Silence followed my voice as I felt him trying to search for words.

Then his voice replied with emotion love and hatred combined "My name is Tigerfang. I am your mate."

Chapter Forty-Two: Riversong

I watched in fear as fought, those that had attacked us not showing mercy and even fighting against the wounded she-cat when she tried to stop them.

I turned around and began to run into the cave, continuing to run until I reached the main section of the cave were cats stood, listening to the fighting outside.

"Rouges are attacking!" I panted "We're out numbered!" watching as more of the tribes cave guards rushed outside, yowling as they met the rouges in battle.

Several long moments passed as the screeches of battle slowed to a halt.

Cave guards began to filter in through the waterfall entrance, those not as badly hurt helping those who could hardly walk. The last one to enter was the she cat who had been used as bait to draw us out, she was carried by two cave guards as her wounds were so bad she could hardly move.

There were many wounds, so many that stoneteller was forced to allow my help with their care.

The she cat had feinted the moment she set foot in the cave, she now rested in a nest at the back of the den, where the dappled moon light could not wake her in her tense sleep.

Once careing for the tribe cats I tended to her wounds as well. My paws gently dousing water over her as the piece of moss in my paws gently scrubbed off the dirt that had gathered in the fight, it didn't take long for me to notice something wrong with her wounds.

They were the same as Blackhearts had been many moons ago.

Chapter Forty-Three: Blackheart

My eyes hovered over the Tom briefly, his deep forest green eyes observing my every move. How could this tom, who brought me so much pain, be my mate.

"Why can't I remember anything?" I asked again, distrusting his last answer yet unsure of how the answer would come as the hatred I had seen in his eyes frightened me.

His eyes closed as he tensed, "I've already answered that question." He said holding back a snarl. Then looking up he continued "why don't you tell me what you can remember?"

With that answer I could feel I could not trust him fully, though my brief memory had shown him happily playing with kits that looked as though they were related to the two of us, he was now clearly showing a different mind set.

"I can remember you... and our kits. But nothing else."

His ears perked "how many kits?" He asked slightly unsure.

I thought for a few moments as I pictured them again, "four..." I replied slowly. "Why does that matter?"

Watching the Tom I realized a small pool of tears had formed at his paws as he looked down, the dim lighting hiding his eyes.

Perhaps this tom was my mate after all, if he truly cared for these kits.

"You don't remember much than." He said with a quiet sigh. "... Those kits are dead."

"What?" I asked in shock, my slight memory had been lost to the icy grip of death. As sadness hardened like a stone in my heart I asked,

"wh- what were their names?" With a shaking start.

"They were, Midnightpaw, Spashpaw, Snowpaw... And Greykit." He said with dark tone. "Shortly after you left a cat named Riversong killed them and fled to the mountains. I'm here to help you get revenge."

"Then I thank you..." I replied. "But if Riversong is in the mountains how will we get there?"

"We already have a plan." Tigerfang smirked, the darkness it held no longer worrying me.

He then began to fade, as did my surroundings.

"I will receive you when you wake." He said "we will bring you to the mountains."

As his dark striped white pelt disappeared I saw two shapes appear at his sides, just as everything went black.

My eyes slowly opened to cats surrounding me, one of them having gasped upon my awakening.

As quickly as they had appeared before me, they left, being forced out by a speckled black Tom and a orange tabby shecat.

"Are you ok Blackheart?" The Tom asked, his eyes full of worry.

"Yes." I replied, for some reason my voice cracked as though it had not been used in a while. Though its sound still caused the two cats to stare in shock.

"You can speak!" The orange tabby gasped, her voice full of happiness.

I flicked my ears, confused by her joy. "Haven't I always been able to talk?" I asked

The two cats glanced at each other, the joy fading from their gaze.

"You mean..." The Tom said "you can't remember?"

"No." I said flatly, not extremely pleased with explaining myself once more.

"So would you mind telling me where I am, and who you two are?"

The orange shecat lowered her head as she looked at the ground, leaving the Tom to explain.

"I'm Darkflame, the thunderclan medicine cat, this is Amberstar, the leader of our clan. You are in the medicine den because you wouldn't wake up after your meeting at the moonstone... Snowstar and them had to carry you here."

"And you said I couldn't speak before?" I asked.

"No.." Amberstar sighed, looking up once more "moons ago, a cat named Whitestar stole it from you. We thought it had been permanent, and you were taught a language to use by your sister."

"I have a sister?"

"Yes, her name is Riversong."

With that I stopped, Riversong?! The one who had killed my kits and fled?

My claws sank into my bedding as I sat up. "I need to go to the mountains." I hissed.

"What about your kits?!" The Tom gasped. "You remember them right?"

I lowered my head and let a growl rip through my muzzle "my kits are dead, I need to see Riversong as soon as possible!"

Chapter Forty-Four: Blackheart

Claws fought to grip stone as I made my way up the mountains path, Tigerfang at my side, watching me carefully as he reached over to help me up each time I fell.

Amberstar and a she-cat named Nettleblossom also walked with us.

I never let my eyes leave the path ahead of me, other than to make the occasional glance at each cat who followed.

The only cat of any whom had joined us who trusted in the slightest was Tigerfang, for he had promised me the revenge I had felt I needed against my so-called sister Riversong.

The two she-cats who had joined us seemed to only be there to keep an eye on me.

Also, the clan leader Amberstar had made it obvious that she distrusted Tigerfang the moment he had entered our camp. Shock had even shown blatantly on her face as I had rushed to him and greeted him eagerly.

So far, the journey had been terrible; the only forest nearby having been filled with foxes, and the two-leg place after no better as we had been forced to go hungry for days.

But now finally we had reached the last part of our journey, the climb of the mountain. And even on uneven paws, I knew I could last to the finish.

"Should we rest?" Nettleblossom asked as she approached my side after I had stumbled once more.

I opened my mouth to answer, but was interrupted as Tigerfang replied calmly. "Perhaps now would be a good time to. Amberstar?" He said, asking the leader.

"Yes." The leader replied, her voice barely audible as she fought for

breath. "There's an indent in the rock over there, perhaps we can use it as shelter."

I fought back a harsh reply as I could feel that we were so close to the end of our journey, instead I dipped my head and followed them into the indent. Pausing to raise my head has the stale scent of cat reached my nose.

Others had been here within the last sunrise, their scent carried blood yet there was none visible on the cave floor. These cats had fought, and won a battle.

Chapter Forty-Five: Nettleblossom

I could feel my forest soft paws ache as I padded through the night. Blackheart was fast asleep, as well as Tigerfang, Amberstar sat guard over them not far behind me as I sulk over the stones cooled by the night.

Something was wrong with Blackheart, for we had all known of the distrust she held for Tigerfang since Greykit had died, and how could she just give up on her kits.

My mind immediate pictured Leafstorm, who was still in at camp in the forest; was he in on this too?

Shaking my head I listened closly to the nearby sound of falling water, I was close.

It was almost as soon as I'd realized that, that I saw the waterfall open up before me, the washed yet strong scent of many cats coming from inside, I could even pick out the odd yet familiar scent of Riversong among them.

I rushed inside, letting the wall of mist dampen my white pelt as I entered the cave.

I looked around quickly looking for my friend, needing to warn her of her sister, but many cats slept in the dark edges of the den.

Just as I prepared to move forward a shape slammed into me, I fell, the wind being knocked from my lungs. Claws met my side as I was held to the ground, I could feel blood easing its way through my new wound as the cat spoke commandingly.

"What do you want?" He hissed, not loosening his grip.

"Please!" I gasped, trying to return breath to my lungs. "I must speak

to Riversong of Thunderclan!"

Cats were beginning to awaken, heads slowly raising out of their nests to see who had disturbed their den.

"I need to warn her!" I begged, feeling that every moment I spent pinned to the ground was another moment closer to the others noticing my being gone.

The toms blue eyes seemed to flicker with relief as he seemed to realize I was not a threat. His grip loosened slightly as lifted his head and called, his voice echoing deeper into the cave.

"Riversong, this cat wishes to speak with you."

Almost emediatly I saw a cat with one blue and one green eye rushing towards me, her pelt covered with a layer of dried mud.

"Nettleblossom!" She gasped in shock as she recognized my pelt.

The tom who still held me down met her gaze calmly as he spoke. "She is a friend?" Though I felt that he knew I was, he seemed slightly wary.

"Yes!" Riversong purred happily, "Yes Stone, this is one of my clan-mates!"

Chapter Forty-Six: Riversong

I could hardly believe it as I watched Nettleblossom leave the cave, the sun still a ways from rising yet still dread rose within my chest as realization settled.

Blackheart was here and had some how regained her voice! Yet... She had lost all memories of what had happened, only known that I was her sister from what the clan had told her, and for some reason she believed I'd killed her kits, who had only gone missing the night before they had all left for the mountains.

And though Blackheart had not spoken aloud to anyone other than Tigerfang, it was clear to Nettleblossom that I would need to expect an incoming fight.

"Are you ok?" Tash, the she-cat with Blackhearts scars asked as she sat at my side.

"No..." I sighed, still watching the mist at the cave entrance as the water continuously fell. "My sister has come, but not to bring me home."

I heard more paw steps as Oreo and Tobby approached.

"What do you mean?" She asked quietly.

I turned to meet her gaze, then to the two toms as well. "We will find out soon."

And with those being my words, I stood and padded to the cave of pointed stones. Longing for advice of any kind.

I sat, paws feeling the soft waves of water as I stood at the center of the pool.

"Please..." I breathed quietly "what am I supposed to do?"

Closing my eyes I waited, though it was but mere seconds before a

pelt brushed against mine.

Coldness filled my every muscle, the mountain wind cut through my clean pelt as I realized that the water was no longer lapping at my paws.

I opened my eyes, I stood above a dip in the mountain ground, a group of cats huddled beneath me.

Kits curled by their mothers at the center of the huddle and the strongest of them at the outer edge.

Suddenly four cats emerged at the edge of the clearing. Two of the four cats paws tumbled slightly from tiredness as they entered the makeshift camp.

My eyes widened as I recognized their two pelts, a black striped white tom who padded with a scarred black she-cat leaning on his shoulder.

"These two cats come from a distant forest." One of the other two cats said, approaching a large muscular grey tom. "The she-cat seeks revenge on the tribe, the tom is her guide."

The grey tom glanced at the two cats, no emotion showing in his silvery grey eyes. "Do they fight?" He asked, unamused.

As if in response, a bolt of light struck a stone near the grey Tom out of no-where. Giving it enough heat to warm any cat a fox-length near it.

"Do we fight?" Tigerfang snorted, "we can do far more then that."

This got the leaders attention, he turned, padding towards the black striped tom, meeting his forest green eyes with his own silvery grey ones.

"And this female?" He asked, his voice sounding as though it could only ever speak with a hiss.

Tigerfang glared triumphantly at the tom, "she controls the weather."

The toms face turned to a grim smile, "then why is it so cold? Can she not warm us?"

"Her heart is iced over with hatred for a cat who resides in the tribe camp, I assure you that with the heat of battle on the rise, it will be warmer sooner than you expect."

With that I felt my eyes blink, and the vision was gone.

"No..." I gasped jerked into alertness.

"You have until the next moonrise to prepare." A soft voice murmured in my ear. "The last song arrives soon."

Chapter Forty-Seven: Blackheart

I sat, sharpening my claws on a stone. Other cats watched me though I no longer cared. I kept my eyes focused on my claws as they struck the stone, each strike led to the roll of thunder in the distance and the sky to darken a bit further.

I let my ears strain as I listened to Tigerfangs conversation in the clearing just behind the rock I sat in front of.

No more then five moon rises had past since we had entered this tribe, having had left Amberstar and Nettleblossom in the den we had sheltered in.

While the two shecats had been 'hunting', a group of battle ready cats stumbled upon us, fresh scars showing on their pelts, where fur had once been.

They had attacked, and I had been easily beaten, had it not been for Tigerfang they would have killed me...

I shivered at the thought of these cats long stone hardened claws, and how they had been readily poised on my throat, prepared to kill only moments before that same cat was fallen. His fur pricked with static and his body shivering in paralyzed agony.

But now we prepared for a new battle, one with these strange cats and not against them.

The sound of paw steps drew nearer behind me as the two toms had finished their meeting.

Tigerfangs forest green eyes glistened slightly with a dark joy, which brought the same shivers of worry through me that it had the day id been found in the dark forest.

The leader padded past me, not making any eye contact as he made his way to the clearings center.

"Tribe-mates!" He called loudly enough for all in the clearing to hear. "We leave at nightfall for what may be our final battle for what will be ours! Tigerfang has promised us a victory that we have longed for all these past moons.

The tribe of Rushing Water will be forced to flee, join us, or die at our power!" His claws flashed as he said the last option.

My eyes widened, these cats wanted to kill the other tribe and chase them from their own land? It had been clear to me since the first attack that these strange cats held blood on their claws, but Tigerfang! How could he, my mate, choose to do something of this sort?

I turned quickly away from the leader as my eyes met Tigerfangs once more, how could he choose that path? Only Riversong was meant to die in revenge for the murder of my kits.

His eyes had changed once more, recognizing my mental defiance. I had challenged his opinion and even without speaking it he was able to realize that I disagreed with entirety.

"Tigerfang." I hissed quietly to him, "I need to speak with you in private."

Anger flashed quickly in his eyes before he hid it, static sparked through his pelt as he replied with a worrisome calmness.

"If you wish." He said, though reluctance glinted in his forest green eyes.

Once out of reach of unwanted ears I spoke, attempting poorly to keep my disagreement from my tone.

"What did he mean? Why are we helping them drive out an entire tribe?!"

Tigerfangs eyes squinted slightly as he thought of a reply, "it's the only way to get them to help us, by promising to help them."

"So we are going to kill innocent cats?" I snapped

"I never said we were going to go through with it." The black striped Tom said, turning slightly, hid wing his eyes. "I only said to him what would get him to help you."

Part of me wanted to purr for his apparent loyalty, but my mind realized that while he had lied to someone, I could sense that it had not been the leader of this horrid tribe.

Grunting I turned away to pad back to the tribe, "just so long as I know your on my side."

And with that I joined the others, keeping speed in my pace, for the moment Tigerfang returned as well, moments after myself, we all began a steady paced rush to battle.

Chapter Forty-Eight: Riversong

I sat at the mouth of the cave, mist from the waterfall weighing down my pelt as I watched the moons light begin reflect off of the pool'ed water at the end of the falls.

A battle was due any moment now, and the tribe was prepared, hiding in the dark crevices of the cave behind me, waiting to be able to corner those who threatened us. Since it was two from my own tribe in lead I chose to stand waiting, to tell the others of their arrival when they approached us.

I could here the muffled and distant sound of paw-steps just over that of the waterfall, which I had grown used to over the past few moons of being here. Turning i padded towards where the cave guards slept, hurriedly waking them up.

"Quick!" I hissed, "They are here."

It didn't take long for them all to wake up, as well as the clan cats and previous rouges, even a few of the prey hunters had woken up, their eyes glazed over with sleep and fear. The paw-steps had grown closer now though they had become fainter, as though the rouges had hidden just beyond the waterfall.

Prey Hunters had already begun to move to their positions inside the nursery, while they were not the best fighters they would be best poised there, in case a rouge made it past one of the warriors and cave guards.

Stoneteller was padding out of her den, her paws moist from the inner caves pools of water as she approached me. "Do you think you're ready for this?" She asked, her voice calm though tinted with fear.

"I haven't much choice have I?" I asked in response, feeling my eyes grow dull with the knowledge of what was about to happen, "This will happen whether I'm ready or not."

A yowl came from outside the cave causing both of us to jump to our paws, "You'd better get back to your den." I said, nudging her slightly, "You cant heal your tribe-mates if you die.."

"You better come too," Stoneteller stated plainly, though it was clear she knew what my answer would be.

"I might not be trained to fight, but this is my battle to face. I have to at least *try* to speak to Blackheart, if I don't do that then I'm no better then what Tigerfang has painted me as."

Thankfully, Stoneteller merely dipped her head in respect, her eyes glistening with knowledge and sadness as she turned her head to return to her den.

The moment her tail had disappeared into the darkness of her den another yowl sounded, followed by the sound of claws scraping on stone as rouges exploded into the cave.

Teeth and claws flashed in the moonlight that dimly filtered into the cave, I skimmed the battle for my sisters dark pelt, only to screech in pain as I felt claws dig into my back and a recognizable scent reach my nose.

"Tigerfang!" I hissed through my teeth as I struggled beneath his weight.

I felt his claws grasp for a better grip, "Nice guess" He purred menacingly into my ear, "I figured you'd have forgotten your clan-mates after being gone for so long."

Chapter Forty-Nine: Riversong

Managing to find a catch in the stone cave floor, I managed to use it to pull myself out from underneath the tom. Feeling the gashes in my back from where his claws had attempted to regain grip I realized that this was not a battle I would get away from unscathed.

"Why are you doing this?" I hissed, arching my back.

His forest green eyes; filled with what once had been an uncharacteristic rage, met mine as he snarled his reply with his head lowered as he prepared to make his next move. "You wouldn't understand." He snarled leaping forward.

Falling backwards I put my hind-legs up, catching him with my rear claws as he tried to land and pin me against the stone. "*Try* to tell me at least!" I snapped, as I kicked him off of me and stood, my claws unsheathed against the stone floor.

Tigerfang got up, standing again before me, his head lowered as his eyes closed. I tilted my head slightly as it seemed he was preparing his words.

My ears continuously flitted as screeches from the others fighting echoed around us, with my fur pricking I couldn't help but feel rushed with the heat of battle, "*Now*!" I hissed, "Before it’s too late to go back."

His head shot back up with his eyes gleaming at the last word of what I had said, standing the fur along the back of his neck hissed as the gleam turned to a contempt, "It's *already* too late." He almost purred as I was just then as a scent reached me.

Another screech sounded as I quickly spun around, this time coming from the cat I faced. Claws pierced my back as Tigerfang leaped at me again, myself having been too shocked to pay him any attention.

"Get off of me!" I snarled as my face hit the floor, smashing my nose against it and causing blood to gush out. "Blackheart!" I called to the cat ahead of me, "Get him off of me, we don't have to fight!"

Paws slowly thudded towards me as I strained my neck to look up at her, though the weight holding me down didn't let me see past the ground and my sister's claws. I could feel her Ice-blue stare piercing my pelt as he stopped just beside me. I stopped struggling against Tigerfang's claws, praying that Blackheart would realize she had been lied to.

"Why?" She asked, uncertainty mixed with the iciness her voice. "Why should I listen to you when you've killed me kits."

As I opened my mouth to reply a paw crashed over my head, "Why are you talking to her?" Tigerfang's snarl just barely reached my ears as everything seemed to echo around me.

I felt Blackheart jump slightly at his tone, my hope rose as I realized she didn't have full trust in Tigerfang. "She killed your kits!" He continued his voice full of anger, "We came here because of her! Remember? Once she's out of the way the battle is done!"

"I didn't kill them!" I managed to whisper, before his anger turned to me again. "And this is not the Tigerfang you were mates with." I had to hope that she was still the same inside; I knew that her memories were gone, but could her mind really have changed that much without them?

I felt as her head lowered to my level, her blue eyes meeting mine, their anger beginning to fade ever so slightly, it was obvious that she hadn't entirely trusted the tom, regardless of her memory loss.

"Go on," she said, her tone smooth, as though it was covered in a thin layer of ice.

"Badgersoul, from the dark forest was the one who killed Greykit," I said, hoping she would remember, "You left Tigerfang after her death, because he hadn't been there." Gasping as

Tigerfang's claws filled with static, I struggled to finish explaining, "I don't know what happened to your other kits- but if anything happened to them, Tigerfang would have had to be involved- I've been with the tribe for moons, your kits and your memories where intact when I left-"

I was forced to stop as Tigerfang tightened his grip further, the electricity pulsing through his claws causing my voice to stop abruptly as I could no longer feel the control of my limbs.

"*Tigerfang*!" barely heard as Blackheart snapped at him, "What are you doing! I told her to talk!"

"Well I think she's said too much." He snarled, his muzzle lowering to be beside my ear. "I say we end this before fills your head with more of her *lies*."

Chapter Fifty: Riversong

My mind began to grow dark with worry as I felt that perhaps Tigerfang and Badgersoul had won this battle. The striped tom's claws dug into my back as I chose to stop listening to my surroundings, I couldn't bare to hear whether or not my sister chose for me to live. Echos began to surround me, built from the screeches of the cats around me; if this battle took any longer it was likely that the tribe would be wiped out, and in a way...

It would be my fault.

Tigerfang's words echo'd in my mind from what he had said before about the battle ending when I had been killed.

Perhaps it would be worth it, if it was to save the tribe after all. Maybe they weren't my true home and family, but it was obvious that it had been left up to me.

Murmuring out loud, I recited the prophecies I had been given that had lead me up to this point;

"*Only the Darkness of Thunder and Swiftness of River can save the Howling Wind, The River will be led to a new, by the darkness of the forest around it.*

It's last Song will be played or the Forest will fall"

Pain crashed down on my head as Tigerfangs voice broke into my thoughts, "Shut up!" He snarled as he pressed his claws into the back of my head.

"I have the swiftness of river.." I responded as though in a trance, my voice soft, not even attempting to overcome the sound of chaos around me.

"I said *Shut Up*!" He snarled again, taking my head and slamming it into the cold stone.

"Tigerfang!" Came my sisters gasp as she stood watching, frozen to the ground by her paws it seemed.

My mind was made up, as a struggled to force my head against Tigerfangs claws just enough to meet my sisters icy blue gaze before speaking. The pain of claws digging into the back of my head didnt matter anymore, it would all be gone soon.

I forced a grin as I looked at her, trying as hard as I could to make it look as though I had lost it, as though I was the villan in this case. "*Fine*!" I laughed, my voice cracking as I forced the word out. "You got me, Tigerfang is right, *I Lied to you*!"

The words tasted vile as they began to sound more even.

I watched as Blackhearts eyes filled with rage and glazed over, almost as though as some part of her didn't want to believe what I was saying. But it was still obvious, that with her lack of memories she would still fall into whatever trap it was that Tigerfang had laid out for her.

Perhaps in this case though... I would be able to take better care of my sister from a distance, after all, Splashstar had up until she was reborn as Blackhearts kit.

She took a step back, braceing herself as though the shock of my sudden change in appearance.

"Well?!" I cackled, swallowing in an attempt to keep back my tears; the last thing I had ever seem myself doing was hurting my sister in the way that I was forced to now. "Aren't you going to kill me?"

Blackheart stood in silence a few moments longer, closeing her eyes as she seemed to be thinking it through. I could feel Tigerfangs dark joy radiateing from his pelt as he waited for her responce.

"*I KILLED YOUR KITS*!" I snapped, worried that tribe members would die while she took her time to process her thoughts. "*WHAT ARE **YOU** GOING TO DO ABOUT IT*?"

I could feel the eyes of others begining to burn into my pelt,

the tribe that I had called my home for the past moons was listening to me as well. Shock came from them as well, they didn't know who to believe of course. How could they?

I was nothing more then a stranger that they had taken in because of what their leader thought was a prophecy, and I wasnt even their savior in it anyways.

I was nothing more then the River, flowing through its path, and carrying with me the one who would be their savior.

And now that I had fufilled my part, these would be my final words.

The rivers last song...

Chapter Fifty-One: Blackheart

I stared at my paws and at the body that had been slain before them. The cries of battle still echoed through the cave as the tribe still fought for their home. Tigerfang's claws still held their clasp on my sisters' torn flesh. Tears began to fall from my eyes as I couldn't help but realize that I was in the wrong this time, I had let Tigerfang kill her.

The cave began to grow warmer around me as I felt the heat of hatred grow within me. How could they all keep fighting when a life had been lost, why had Tigerfang lied to me. Wasn't it all just supposed to be simple? A quick revenge plot against a villain, once dead leaving the others to live normally as though nothing had been wronged to begin with.

But then that is never really the case is it? In my mind, I was able to remember Whitestar, and how he had been thought to be a villain, but actually was not. This all just seemed to be a repeat of that same moment… only in this case, it was not only that… the villain was the hero.

Being so lost in my thoughts I hadn't noticed as Tigerfang approached me until he used his tail to lift my chin, allowing him to meet my utterly lost gaze.

"The battle is over." He purred as he leaned in towards me, his forest green eyes dark and unreadable.

I felt my shoulders dropped as I let my head and gaze fall again to my sister's speckled grey pelt where it lay lifeless on the cave floor. "It's not true…" I murmured.

"What's that?" Tigerfang asked, bending over to listen more closely.

I turned my face to him as my expression grew into a snarl. "You Lied to Me!" I snarled as my realizations boiled over into pure anger. "She did nothing!" Continuing as my fur stood on

end, my back arching as I spat at him “And do you think I am blind to the battle that rages on around us! THE BATTLE IS NOT OVER!”

His eyes met mine, for a moment a spark of shock entered them, though it was quickly extinguished as he closed them and shook his head. Beginning to pad in a circle around me he spoke in that same fluid tone he seemed to always use as of late. “It’s a shame the shock that took your memories faded so quickly…” his eyes closed, “If only it could have lasted until the battle was over, then perhaps I could have talked them into sparing you.”

“What do you mean?” I hissed. As I strained my neck to keep him in my vision.

Shaking his head he sighed almost as though he regretted his choice of words. “Badgersoul would have let me keep you had this plan worked. Perhaps we would have even found your kits…” Tigerfangs eyes shot open as he stood directly in front of me once more, “But clearly this battle has been lost, and now it’s time for you to parish, just as you should have on the night your voice was stolen.”

“As if I would ever die at your claws.” I snarled back, my eyes locking on his.

“That’s right.” Another voice seemed to join in, as the battle around us faded into blackness, it was as though we weren’t even in the cave anymore. My sister’s body still lay beside me though, so I knew that battle still raged on. Sickening yellow green eyes appeared at Tigerfangs side as another cat padded into vision. “You won’t be slain by Tigerfang.” He walked closer as I found my paws bound to the ground, feeling as though my sister’s blood had turned to a sticky paste, leaving me with no escape.

He purred as he walked slightly past me, his tail flicking my chin before he turned and made eye contact. “Blackheart my friend..” he said in a sickeningly calm voice as he lifted his paw, claws unsheathed and placed it gently on the side of my neck.

“Instead…Your death will be at my claws.” He stated as

his claws swiftly slashed through my throat.

As I fell to the ground he began to walk away, leaving me as my vision began to fade to match the darkness surrounding the figures of both tom's.

"Tell the River that I said farewell." He purred, turning around one last time once he was at Tigerfangs side. His Yellow green eyes burning into my mind just before my eyes closed for the last time.

End

Thank you all again for reading this all the way through!
I must admit that this took me a whole lot longer to write than expected, (considering i planned to finish it in 2012, and now its 2015)

A lot has happened since I started this book.. I started it in 2010, I was in 8th grade and had just moved to Japan from Vancouver Washington, Since then I moved to Korea and I am now a Freshman in College who works as a Substitute teacher, and I will be returning to Vancouver this Summer.

Wattpad has gone through some changes as well, when i first joined there was a different layout, I had tons of online friends here who were active and we chated through the chat bar that used to be found on the bottom of wattpads page. Since then wattpad has gotten rid of the chat, and even changed the website layout completely! Heck I used to have to use my Ipod 3rd Gen's Safari to publish chapters that I wrote useing the Note-Pad app on that iPod. Now the Wattpad App has a thing where you can publish chapters right from there! And Now I have a laptop, so i dont even need to use an Ipod to write if i so wish.
Even warriors has changed! When i started writting this book, Fading Echo's was just released (bk 2 of Omen of the Stars), and now I dont even know what book they are on because I stopped reading at the end of the 4th arc.

Anyways, a lot has changed, since I started this fan fiction. Personaly I've changed a lot as a person as well. I've gone from a moody teenager locked in my bedroom writting, to someone who teaches 1st -8th graders. I hope you've enjoy'ed this journey as much as I have and I hope that you have an amazing adventure of your own!

-Sincerely,
Jennifer Rauch